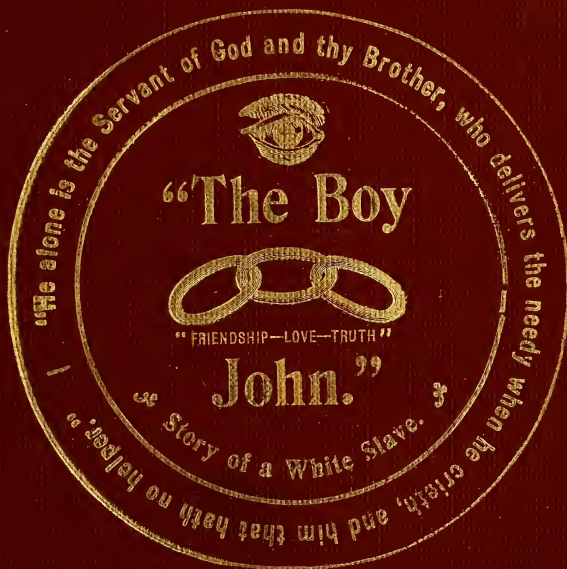


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"TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION."



BY _____

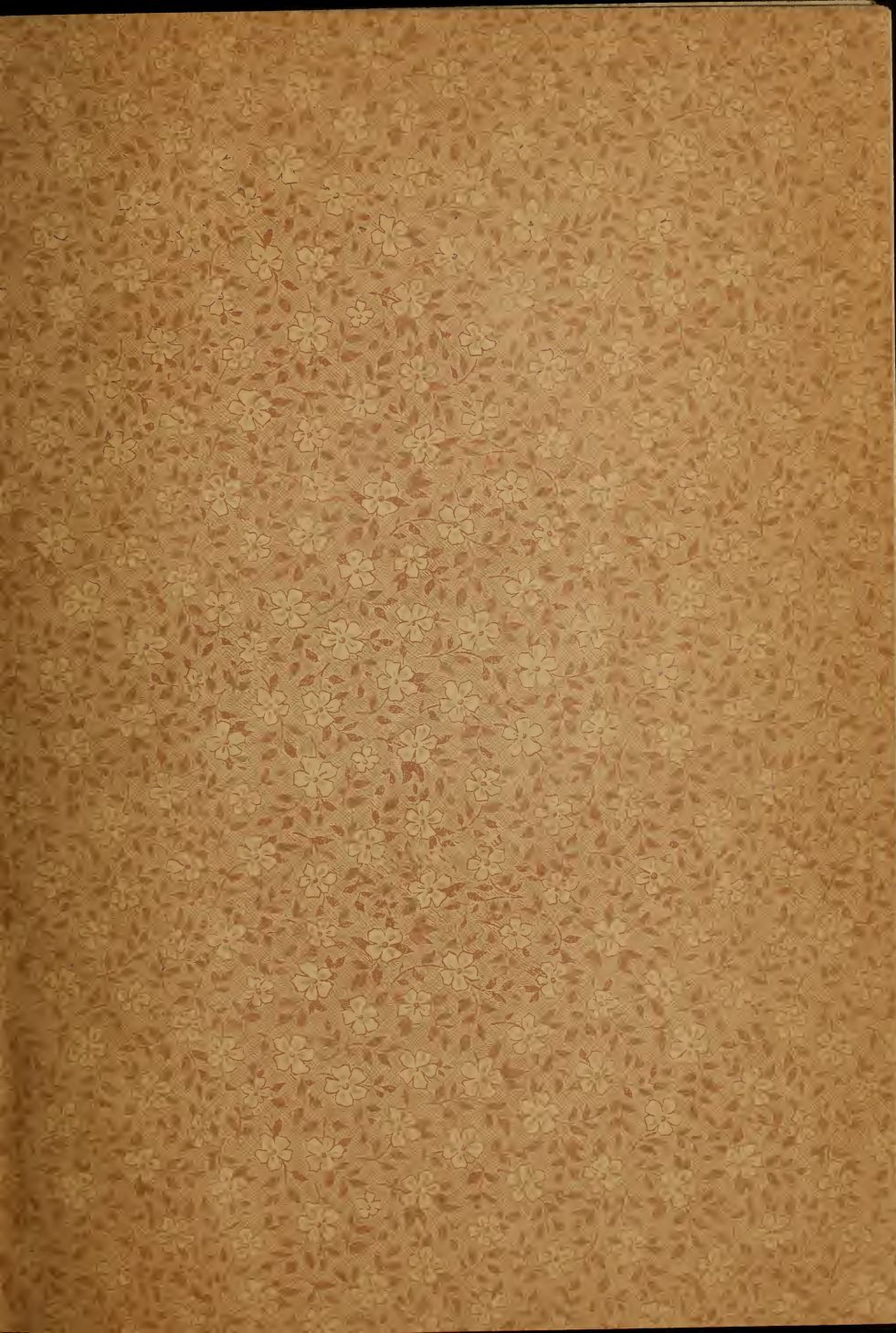
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SHELBYVILLE, KY.
1897.

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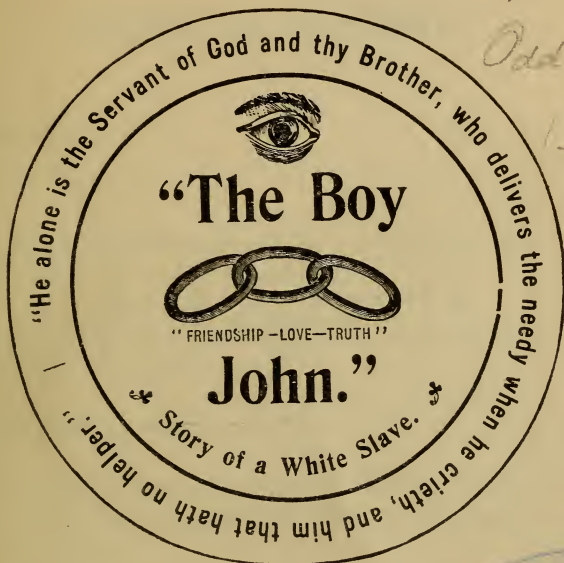
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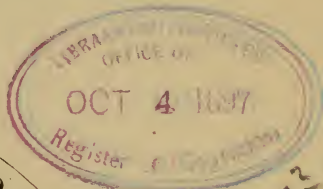


"TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION."



—BY—

Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F.
SHELBYVILLE, KY.
1897.
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1897.

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DEDICATION.

Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.

To the memory of the officers and members of Howard Lodge, No. 15 I. O. O. F., in and about the years 1845-46-47, who were so active in the worthy cause of Humanity :

To Brother Joseph P. Knott, Chairman, and G. W. Johnson, William T. Knight, Fielding Neel, and George Rowden, the Committee on "The Boy John:"

To the venerable Brother who wrote the mysterious manuscript, completing the broken link in the chain of this unique history, and

To the cause of Odd Fellowship, and its sacred principles, the following strange, but true, recital is respectfully dedicated.

HOWARD LODGE No. 15, I. O. O. F.,
Shelbyville, Kentucky.

LYNN T. GRUBER,
PHILIP J. BEARD,
CAMDEN W. BALLARD, } Committee.

1897.

INTRODUCTION.

The touching story, unembellished and unadorned, which this little book presents, goes straight to the heart, and will live in the affections of every true Odd Fellow who may read the lines, which are hardly more than reports of committees, of good, true and lovable men, who lived more than half a century ago in the village, then, of Shelbyville, Ky., and who counted it great gain to be humble members of a benevolent order, then in the twenty-seventh year of its history.

These conscientious Odd Fellows, whose hearts had been quickened by a sense of duty in the cause of humanity; who were touched by the feeling of a charity which is kind; who were humble instruments in the hands of an All-Wise and Over-Ruling Providence in many acts of kindness and

brotherly love—known only within the sacred walls of the lodge room to other members of this truly Divine Institution, little knew the far reaching results of the labors which they were conscientiously though silently performing, when they took upon themselves, at the lodge's direction, the solving of the then mystery of "the Boy John," in the cause of injured innocence, and the righting of a great wrong to a feeble creature, but a great soul, held in bondage and in slavery.

It was not the province of Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., more than the duty of any Christian church in all this broad land—"the land of the free and the home of the brave?"—to inquire into and trace the history of a waif on God's footstool; who white and free-born—being lost to parents whose idol, perhaps, he was, and stolen away from kindred and holy associations—was cuffed and beaten and half fed and miserably clothed; his lot cast in with the wicked and

degraded; his Anglo-Saxon face, features and person changed by repeated cruelties known only to those who have witnessed similar scenes in the great Southland, and performed by a slave dealer, in the years before the late Civil War.

It was but the spirit of the teachings of Odd Fellowship, *actively in practice*—for profession without performance works no miracle.

The members of Howard Lodge had taken an obligation “to visit the sick, bury the dead, succor and educate the widow and orphan,” and Howard Lodge was strengthened by a membership who did not forget that:

Whatsoever you find for your hands to do.

 If you do it just right,

 You nothing have lost,

 Whatever the cost,

As onward you travel this wide world through!

Whatsoever is good, it is good to do,

 If you do it just right;

 When foes assail,

 You can not fail,

Though the wicked with money your pathway strew!

Whatsoever is best, it is best to do,
If you do it just right ;
You naught have to fear
If your Conscience be clear :
Nothing but Heaven is half so true !

Whatsoever of labor, or toil you knew,
If you did it just right,
All pain will remove,
By the Master above :
The portal of Glory will open to You !

Imbued with the spirit of Friendship, Love, and Truth; quick to see, and prompt to execute; this worthy lodge initiated, and our faithful brothers carried successfully to completion, the results which are so plainly set out on the following pages.

“Friendship leads to Brotherly Love,” and the first step one may take when one clearly perceives its true meaning, is a desire, being strong one’s self, to support and strengthen, succor and relieve the weak, the afflicted, the distressed.

How sincere then must all Odd Fellows know our professions to be, when we point with love, affection and reverence to those

of our Order who, in the past, did so much for the relief and support of—

“One or the least of these my children!”

If no other act of charity and benevolence could be shown as a result of the labors of Howard Lodge in the fifty-four years of its history, the following simple story, and its sequence, would be sufficient to amply demonstrate the living, active principles of their Trinity of Graces, which are woven into a chain, whose key is:

“Gratefulness to the Creator of the universe; faithfulness to the country of your nativity or adoption; and fraternity towards your fellowmen. With these principles, in-wrought in the hearts of the peoples of earth, what might not be accomplished towards the up-building of the races of men?”

Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., publishes this little work, not because of its literary merit, but only for the purpose of showing *what Odd Fellowship has done, and*

will ever do, for the relief of the distressed, and with the hope that the membership throughout this and other lands may be able to gather therefrom an additional fact, which, if properly used, will further the cause, in working as a leaven among the masses of men who, as yet, may not have embraced the principles we hold and practice.

The occasion which brought to the knowledge of the outside world the history of the Boy John, was the Seventy-seventh Anniversary Celebration of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, held by Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., of Shelbyville, Ky. The manner of proceeding is clearly shown in the address of Brother Lynn T. Gruber, which follows, and the exercises, which were held at Layson Hall, April 27, 1896, at 8 o'clock p. m.

1819. _____

_____ 1896.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
OF

ODD FELLOWS

BY

HOWARD LODGE NO. 15, I. O. O. F.,
OF SHELBYVILLE, KY.

LAYSON HALL, APRIL 27, '96,

8 P. M.

PROGRAMME OF EXERCISES.

PART ONE.

Opening Ode.

Tune—"GREENVILLE."

(The audience is requested to join in the singing of this ode.)

BRETHREN of our friendly order,
HONOR here asserts her sway,
All within our secret border
Must her high commands obey;
Join, Odd Fellowship of BROTHERS,
In the song of TRUTH and LOVE;
Leave dispute and strife to others,
We in HARMONY must move.

HONOR to her court invites us,
Worthy subjects let us prove;
Strong the chain that here unites us,
Linked with FRIENDSHIP, TRUTH and LOVE;
In our hearts enshrined and cherished,
May these feelings ever bloom—
Failing not when life has perished,
Living still beyond the tomb.

Opening Prayer *by Rev. W. E. Bryce*
Music *by the Mandolin Club*
Introductory Address *by Rev. B. F. Hungerford*
 " *THE BOY JOHN*," or *Truth is Stranger than Fiction.*

PART TWO.

Sketch *The Old Odd Fellow at Work, with Songs*
Music *by the Mandolin Club*

Closing Ode.

Tune—"AMERICA."

(*The audience is requested to join in singing this ode and Doxology.*)

Brothers, we thank you all,
 For this your friendly call,
 Our hearts to cheer;
 May Peace her influence shed,
 And heav'n its wings outspread,
 To guard each brother's head
 From pain and fear.

Good-night! and as you go,
 Bear hence, and fully show
 Stamp'd on your breast,
 The seal of FRIENDSHIP pure,
 And LOVE thro' life t' endure,
 And TRUTH, which still secure
 With Honor rest.

Closing Prayer *by Rev. Dr. W. T. Poynter*
 Long Meter Doxology.

Benediction *by Rev. J. R. Savage*
 Mrs. J. F. Bailey, Organist.

ADDRESS
OF
BROTHER LYNN T. GRUBER,

DELIVERED AT

Layson Hall, Shelbyville, Ky., April 27, 1896.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Officers and Brothers:

"Truth is Stranger than Fiction."

I have no doubt that already there is a feeling of disappointment passing through the minds of this audience, as you probably expected some learned and eloquent orator to be introduced to you for the purpose of furnishing an hour's entertaining and instructive discourse on the beauties of the principles of Odd Fellowship, or on some kindred subject. But in place of such a speaker, you have before you only a plain, blunt fellow-townsmen, without pretension to any of the graces of oratory, but one who hopes that you will overlook his short-

comings as such, and make proper allowances for his lack of experience as a public speaker, and compliment him by becoming deeply interested in the subject which he is about to present in the cause of humanity for your consideration.

Three years ago, while searching the old records of Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F. (of this place), for the materials required in the collaboration of an article giving the history of this lodge, to be read on its 50th anniversary celebration (which was held in this room, he found a mass of matter in a case that at once attracted his attention, and caused him to feel and manifest a great interest in the subject there presented. Since that time, he has never permitted the subject to pass entirely from his mind, but has devoted many leisure moments in examining these records, and trying, in his feeble way, to straighten out some of the tangled strands in the skein. It was a labor of considerable magnitude.

as the entire records of the lodge for a number of years were involved; but, at a time least hoped for, help came from an unexpected source. I must detail to you this circumstance, and thus acquaint you with a very remarkable coincidence, and one which as yet we have been unable to satisfactorily explain.

A short time ago, your speaker, with only four other brothers of this lodge, were seated in our lodge room. In an informal way the matter of the celebration of this, our anniversary, day was being discussed. Several plans were suggested to make an interesting and instructive entertainment, but none seemed to entirely meet the wishes of all present, until, by chance, it occurred to the mind of your speaker to propose the subject which will be brought out in the course of the evening. He turned to the record book, and read to these brothers some complete reports that are therein recorded. All became at once in-

terested in the case, and it was discussed at some length; and much regret was expressed by all at the lack of a few links needed to complete the chain. Only a few days after this informal meeting, there was received through the mail a package, addressed to the officers and members of Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., Shelbyville, Ky. Upon opening it, what was our surprise at finding the communication headed, "What I know about the Boy John." It was a manuscript of forty-five pages, giving in a complete and narrative form the connected history, which, in our records of the case, was in a rather disconnected order. The work had evidently been written a number of years ago, as the ink showed the signs of age.

It was enclosed in a home-made envelope, the glue plainly showing that the package had been sealed for years. It was dated and postmarked from a little town in Western Nebraska, but had no marks upon

it which enabled us to form any idea who had sent it. And we do not now know from whom it came, but it is our opinion that it was found in the effects of an old Odd Fellow with directions to forward it to Howard Lodge after his death. The writer, whoever he was, must have been a former member of this lodge, and have had access to our records, as there is a great deal of matter in the narrative which could only have been obtained from our records. I know that there are several persons present to-night, and several more in this community, to whom much of this story will be familiar, and who will be able to convince the most skeptical person that this is a true history of the Boy John as far as they know that history. Until to-night they never had an opportunity to hear what was the final outcome of the affair, which had been undoubtedly common talk in this community fifty years ago. The dates in the manuscript were left blank, but a note

stated where we could find the correct dates, and we have filled all of the blanks with those dates.

I will now read a true and accurate copy of the manuscript received; the reports of special and standing committees to the lodge, and other matter pertaining to the case, making this preliminary statement: That this is not a story founded on facts amplified and colored to suit the taste of a morbid public curiosity, but it is a perfectly true account of what really occurred without embellishment, and is abundantly substantiated by our records.

THE MYSTERIOUS MANUSCRIPT.

“At a meeting of Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., located at Shelbyville, Ky., held during the early part of the winter of 1846, we had the lodge room filled to its utmost capacity. Indeed, so crowded was the room that an empty seat could not be found. This lodge was at that early date

a very strong one in its membership, and counted on its roll a long list of bright and zealous brothers, who prided themselves in being always present at its meetings; consequently, at every gathering of the Order the room was well filled. But on this particular evening it was unusually crowded, it being the night for the election of officers, with many willing and anxious brothers as candidates for the various chairs. Oh! how the faces of those old brothers, beaming with the cardinal virtues of our order—‘Friendship, Love and Truth’—present themselves to my memory as I write these lines. Many of them have closed the life of ‘Faith, Hope and Charity,’ and have passed from time, to take their well-earned places in the Lodge above. I believe that one other brother, who is still a useful member of the old lodge, and myself are all that are left of those who had congregated in the lodge room on the night mentioned. At the

usual stage of proceedings for such business, the Noble Grand arose in his place, and in a low, sad voice, read: 'I charge Brother George McDavitt with conduct unbecoming an Odd Fellow. Specification: That the accused Brother George McDavitt has taken into his custody on the order of Mr. George, and sold into slavery, a certain boy called John, which boy is supposed to be the son of white parents, born free, and without the taints of negro blood.' On the reading of the charge, the brothers were struck with astonishment. Incredulity was depicted on every face. Why! Brother McDavitt accused of such a crime? Impossible! Brother McDavitt was almost the idol of the lodge; one of the most beloved, useful and popular of its members, and deservedly so; for he was a big-hearted, generous, noble man, and a good Odd Fellow, with all that that name implies.

"Each heart in that room responded

‘not guilty,’ to the accusation, and every one felt that Brother McDavitt could not be guilty of so black a crime. Was a brother sick; at his bedside Brother McDavitt was sure to be found; his presence was greeted with a happy smile by the afflicted brother; his fingers were softest to the fevered brow; his sympathizing face could best chase away the aches and pains of disease. Was a brother in distress? If so, he had only to whisper his wants to Brother McDavitt, and the brother’s big heart swelled with benevolence, and was anxious to relieve him. And often had he stood by the last resting place and assisted the brothers of the lodge to consign a departed brother, or brother’s wife, to the grave—‘Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust.’ This charge could not be true. Brother McDavitt was too good a man, too true an Odd Fellow, to be guilty of such an outrage. Oh, no!

“On the reading of this charge and specification, the Noble Grand appointed the

usual committee of investigation, who gave the requisite notice to the accused brother, and appointed a time and place for hearing the evidence in the case. Brother McDavitt was then in Vicksburg, Miss., and, at his request, the court of investigation was adjourned from week to week, until his return home, for the brother was a trader, and took charge of stock, such as horses, mules, and sometimes negroes, to sell on commission in the southern markets. This fact was an evidence of his high standing in his native place for truth and honesty. At last, early in the spring of 1847, all parties being ready for trial, the committee proceeded to the collection of the evidence. The first witness called to the stand was Brother John Cleminson (who operated a rope walk on the place now occupied by Mr. J. C. Beckham). He deposed as follows: 'My business is that of a manufacturer of rope and bagging. I know a boy called John; I suppose him to

be the same boy mentioned in the charge against Brother McDavitt. I hired the boy from Mr. George by the month. I had him in my factory for two or three months. The boy was a very bright mulatto; I would suppose from his complexion that he had some negro blood in his veins. His hair did not indicate the taints of the negro, neither did his features nor the expression of his face. He was a well formed and finely developed boy, with manners superior to those of a negro. I would suppose him to be between twelve and fourteen years old. I have heard my hands say that the boy claimed to be white, but I never heard him allege such a claim. I delivered the boy to Mr. George McDavitt on the presentation of an order from Mr. George, the boy's master.' (The order was here presented and with the consent of the witness made part of the evidence.)

"A few other witnesses were called to prove the identity of the boy, his general

appearance, and other minor facts. The last witness introduced on the part of the prosecution was a negro man—a slave to the boy's master—who was, after much persuasion, induced to come to town late on a Saturday night, in order to give his evidence. He gave his name as 'Ike.' 'Could not tell his age; was raised by Massa George; Massa George owned his mother. He knowed Massa George's boy John; Massa had raised the boy John ever since he was three or four years old, maybe five or six.'

"Question. 'Do you know how your master came to own the boy?' 'Yes, sah.' 'Well, tell us all about it.' 'Well, sah, one evening Massa George, he war setting out on de porch, and he say, "Ike, what smoke is dat down dar in the woods?" I say, "I dunno, Massa George; speks dat he some mover's smoke." Then Massa George he say, "Bring round de pony, and I go see." So I bring round de pony, and Massa

George he get on de pony, and go thro de woods, an I follow him to see, too, but you bet dat old Massa he don't know dat I follow him. When I got most down to de smoke, I seed a tolerable old man, and an old woman, with three or four children, a setting by de fire; an de most broken down wagon, an de poorest old hoss, dat I ebber did see; an old Massa he was standing by de fire, talking to de old man. Den I squat down behind some old logs, an I heared old Massa ax de old man whar he come from. An de old man he say, "From North Carolina; and we is mighty poor, we is; an we are a gwine to Indiana, if we ever can get dar." Then old Massa he say, "Youse got some fine boys here." De old man say, "Yes." Old Massa say, "I want a nice boy to run about de house; s'posin' you sell me one? I'll make a man out of him." De old man, he say "No." Den old Massa, he say, "I gib you dis nice pony and twenty dollars for dis boy, dat you calls John." Den

de old man he talk to de old woman, and after a good long time, de old man, he say dat he was willing to sell de boy, if old Massa promised to make a man outen of him. Den I went home to de cabin.'

"'Well, tell us what happened after that?'
'Well, Massa, I goes to de cabin, an 'after a good while I hear Massa George holler out, "Ike!" An I say "Coming, Massa George." When I go up to de house, Massa George say, "Ike, dem movers down dar in de woods, dey am mighty poor white folks, an dare old hoss am most dead; I speck dat I must gib dem my pony." I say "Law, me, Massa George, you ain't gwine to gib de pony away am you?" He say, "Yes." Then he told me to take de saddle and bridle offen de pony, an take them de pony, an say I gibs dem de pony. Well, I taked de pony, an went to de camp to de old man, and I say to him, "Old Massa say he gives you dis pony." De old man he took de pony, but nebber said nothing. I seed de

old woman a sitting by de fire, an she was a cryin; an den I went back to de cabin.'

"Question. 'Now, Ike, tell us when you saw the boy next?' 'Well, next day, I go over to de old place to plow de corn, an I work dar most two weeks; when I come back to de new place, I seed de little boy running out in de yard, an I knowed him was de same little boy dat I seed dat night down with de movers.' Question. 'How did your master treat the boy?' 'Well, old Massa, he make de boy go out in de sun, and de rain, most all de time without no hat, an nothing on he back cepting an old shirt what was mighty ragged, all de summer an de fall, clear up till most holiday time—all de time dat I knowed him.' Question. 'How long was that, Ike?' 'A long time, five or six, maybe seben years. Last year, Massa he hired John to Massa John Cleminson, an dat am de last time dat I ever seed John.'

"Brother McDavitt testified in his own

behalf, 'That he had taken a boy to sell on commission from Mr. George. That Mr. John Cleminson had delivered the boy to him on the order of Mr. George; that the boy was named John. He was a very sprightly boy; a very bright colored boy, well grown and finely developed, and of more than ordinary intelligence for a boy raised as a slave. But he had no reason to suppose him to be white, and had no suspicions that the boy was the son of white parents. Had understood from Mr. George that he had raised the boy. He had never seen the boy until Mr. Cleminson delivered him on the order of Mr. George. Had sold the boy to a Mr. McNeill, residing in one of the back counties of Mississippi, for two hundred and fifty dollars.'

"And thus the investigation closed, and the evidence was reported back to the lodge by the committee, with a resolution acquitting the accused. On the final trial of Brother McDavitt by the lodge, after a

lengthy discussion, and a careful examination of the evidence, the resolution offered by the committee was adopted, and the brother declared innocent of the crime charged against him. Brother McDavitt shortly after his trial obtained a withdrawal card and removed to the South, where he died a short time after this. The acquittal of the accused brother left the lodge profoundly interested in the fate of the boy John. It was very evident that a great cruelty and injustice had been inflicted on a fellow being. That the boy was the same one purchased by the man George, as testified to by the colored man, Ike, was undoubted. This was further substantiated by the numerous rumors that were rife through the entire community. That the boy had been exposed to the sun and weather without clothing for years, was fully proven, and that this exposure was for the purpose of bronzing him into the appearance of a mulatto was the just

inference. We all knew the sordid nature of the man George, and many believed that, for gold, he would barter away his own soul. What was the lodge to do? Indeed, what could it do? Under the head of 'Has any brother anything to offer for the good of the order?' the question came before the lodge, and, after long debate, the brothers determined to investigate the case as far as practicable, and a committee of five were appointed on the case, and called 'The Committee on the Boy John.' In those early days of Odd Fellowship, the secretary of the lodge kept what was designated a committee book, in which was recorded the various committees of the lodge, under their appropriate heads. When reports from committees were called for, the secretary would turn to this book, and call the various committees, with the name of their chairman. Night after night, week after week, until it almost became a jest, the secretary would call out, 'Committee on

Boy John; Past Grand Knott, chairman.' The brother would report progress, and ask for further time, which would be granted, but against the wishes of some of the brothers, who were opposed to the investigation on the grounds that it was outside of the duties of the order, and who wished the committee discharged. Without much apparent success, the committee were still busily at work, and that with great zeal. On the night of their appointment, the chairman had, by resolution, asked for the power to employ an agent to investigate, examine and hunt up evidence, which request was promptly granted by the lodge. On the first meeting of the committee, after due consultation, and acting under the advice of an eminent attorney, Past Grand G. W. Johnson, who was one of the committee (and afterward Grand Master of the state of Kentucky in 1851) it was determined that the best course to pursue was to try

to find the parents of the boy, or, failing in this attempt, to trace them back to where they came from, and thus possibly ascertain their names, and their present residence. To effect this, Past Grand William T. Knight offered his services to the committee, free of cost to the lodge; his offer was gladly accepted. After obtaining from the colored man, Ike, as accurate a description of the party of movers as he could give and also their outfit, he determined to attempt to trace them back to their original starting place in North Carolina, and thus probably be able to discover from their former acquaintances their names and their place of residence in Indiana. So providing himself with a good roadster, he went back on the usual route of immigrants from that state bound for Indiana, a distance which he considered as a fair day's journey for such a company. He then halted and commenced his search for information of them. After several days spent

in fruitless efforts, he at last found a gentleman residing at the mouth of 'Six Mile Creek,' a small stream entering the Kentucky river about twenty miles below Frankfort, who thought that he recollected such a party having camped on his grounds for two or three days, being detained on account of the illness of some one of the family. He thought that it was about six or seven years since, or about the years 1839 or 1840. The wife of the gentleman distinctly remembered having visited the sick family, and her description of them corresponded very nearly with that of the negro man, Ike. This clue, although very faint, encouraged him in his search, and with great difficulty he was able to follow up the trail, almost to the borders of the state. But in the mountainous portions of Kentucky, near Cumberland Gap, he finally lost all trace of them. Returning home, he reported to the committee all of the items and information that he had been

able to obtain regarding the family of immigrants, and manifested a disposition to abandon the search; but on the earnest solicitation of the committee, he consented to attempt to trace the family of movers to their place of residence in Indiana, presuming that they had gone to that state, as the old man had said that was his destination. So, starting out, he again succeeded in falling on their track, which he followed until he arrived at the Ohio river, near West Port, Oldham county, Kentucky, at which point he lost all trace of them, and discontinued his search in that direction. On his return from this trip he reported to the committee this second failure of his mission of love, and they were on the point of making a final report to the lodge, and ask to be discharged.

“And now let us drop a tear to the memory of Past Grand Joseph P. Knott, the zealous chairman of this committee. He was a man of commanding excellences; he

possessed the respect, the esteem and the love of all who knew him; he comprehended the full meaning of the words, 'Friendship, Love and Truth,' and practiced those virtues in all of the walks of life. He was a man of faith, in whose heart hope was an anchor sure and steadfast, while charity was his second nature. His course is run, his well spent life ended. His bark has landed on the other shore, and doubtless he now sings the song of redeeming love in loftier strains, and shouts his anthems of praise in louder notes than angels ever dare to shout, or sing their song of Hosanna to the Highest. This grand old Patriarch was the chairman of the committee on the boy 'John,' and he filled the position with ability and dignity. As intimated above, the committee were greatly discouraged; their labors had resulted in no tangible good. Had we succeeded in finding the parents of the boy, then the man George could have been prosecuted; the boy set at

liberty with a large sum of money given him as damages; the cruel master could have been exposed, and punished with a place in the state prison. But we had failed in all our efforts, and our hopes had vanished like the baseless fabric of a dream. We could do no more; all of our time and money had been wasted, and the oppressed and wronged boy must linger on in his bondage. Make your report, Mr. Chairman, and ask for the discharge of the committee, was our determination. Then it was that Past Grand Knott came to the rescue, and awoke in us new hope. He said, 'why not gather up all these documents, and with them go to the boy's present master, tell him what we believe, and give him the reason of our belief; tell him what we know, and how we gained our information. Show him what we have done, and what we wanted to do if we had the ability. I still trust in human nature. Throw ourselves on his liberality, appeal to

his sense of justice, and let him decide the boy's fate. I know nothing about Mr. McNeill, but he belongs to the great brotherhood of man, and he may at least do something to mitigate the woes and lessen the horrors of this poor boy's undeserved servitude. We can do nothing more than this, and I think that we should at least try this plan, before giving up the case.' The suggestion of the chairman met the hearty approval of the committee, and his plan was unanimously adopted. While he, true to the promptings of his great humanity, kindly consented to act as our delegate.

Past Grand Knott, being furnished by the lodge with a certified copy of the evidence collected in the trial of Brother McDavitt, as well as with the various reports of Past Grand Knight to the committee, and also with letters from prominent members of the lodge vouching for his high standing in the community, having thus prepared himself, he started on his mission

of love early in the summer of 1847. Fortunately, Brother McDavitt in his testimony had given the address of Mr. McNeill, so that the difficulty of finding him was not great. On his arrival at Mr. McNeill's residence, he found a genial, kind looking, elderly gentleman, who treated him with the utmost hospitality. Taking some time in arranging mentally a proper way to announce the object of his visit, and having determined on his plan of breaching the subject of his mission, he very quietly asked Mr. McNeill if he had not some years since purchased at Vicksburg, Miss., a mulatto boy by the name of John. 'Yes, sir, I purchased such a boy the last time that I was in Vicksburg, in the winter of 1845.' 'Have you the boy still in your possession?' 'Yes, sir, I still own the boy. The fact is, that when I brought the boy home, he was sent on out to the plantation with my other hands. After awhile I found out from the reports of my overseer that the negroes

were treating him badly, but supposing that they would change their treatment of the boy after knowing him better, I took no notice of it, but as they continued their harsh treatment, I determined to interfere. So, upon questioning one of my old servants, I found from his answers that the negroes were prejudiced against him, because he claimed that he was a white boy, and that he was too proud to associate with them. On learning this, and as the boy was very bright, I concluded to make a house servant of him, and there he is' (pointing to a boy as he passed by them).

"Imagine, if you can, the feelings of Brother Knott as he gazed on the object of his search, and realized that in a very short time the hopes of months would be either fulfilled or shattered. Brother Knott now requested a private interview with him, on important business, which was granted. On being shown to the library, or sitting room, Brother Knott, in

as intelligent and concise a manner as possible, stated the object of his visit, the suspicions of himself and others as to the boy being wrongfully held in slavery, and then he handed him his letters of credence, the certified copy of the evidence in the McDavitt case, and the several reports of Past Grand Knight to the committee. Mr. McNeill perused these documents with great care and with apparent interest. After he heard Brother Knott go over the evidence again, and had studied the case with more care, making some memoranda, and asking for some explanations, he remarked: 'You have made out a very strong case in the boy's favor; suppose that we call him in and see if he can throw any light on his early history?' Ringing a bell, he ordered John to be sent into him. On the entrance of the boy, his master questioned him about his duties in the house, how he liked the change from the cotton fields to the dining room, and thus continued his conversation

until the timidity of the boy was partly overcome. Then he said: 'John, I want you to tell me what you remember about yourself when you were a little boy.' The boy looked frightened at this command. 'Sit down, now, and try to tell me all you can recall of your childhood.'

"The boy took a seat, still looking confused and doubtful. His master said to him: 'Don't be frightened, try to think, and tell me, if you can, what you remember of yourself when you were a little boy.' The boy still hesitated. After a few moments, his master said to him: 'Do you remember when you were a little boy of having been with a man, a woman and some children, with a wagon and an old horse; of going through the woods, and along the roads, day after day for a long time and at night sitting around the fire in the woods?' The boy, with a far away look, finally said: 'Yes, sir, I think that I do.' 'Well, John, can you recollect anything that happened

during all of this time?" 'Yes, sir, we once camped by a river, and some of us were sick, and a lady came to see us.' 'Do you remember anything else?' 'Yes, sir, I remember that one night we camped in the woods, and Mr. George, the man who sent me down the river, came to see us.' 'Do you know what you did that night?' 'Yes, sir, I rode on a pony before Mr. George to a big house, and he put me in a room by myself, and kept me there for I don't know how long, and then he let me out and I played in the yard.' 'Now, John, after all this, when you were older, what do you remember; and how did Mr. George treat you?' After a few minutes' thought, he said: 'I first remember myself as a little boy running about the yard and pastures all day, without hat or clothes, except a short ragged shirt. At night Mr. George locked me in a room by myself. When I grew older, I used to work in the corn and tobacco fields, and plow and clean the

stables; but always without a hat or clothes to wear, except in winter time, then he gave me clothes, but no hat. He never allowed me to go off the place, nor to play with the other children. I was hired to a Mr. Clagett Stout for some time, and then just a short time before I was brought down the river Mr. John Cleminson came to Mr. George and he hired me to Mr. Cleminson, who took me in his wagon to a place called a rope walk, where I worked until one day Mr. McDavitt, the man who sold me to you, came to see Mr. Cleminson, and he took me away when he left, and then carried me to Louisville, and on down the river to New Orleans, where I was put in jail and kept there for some time. He sold several of the other slaves in New Orleans, but after keeping us there for some time he brought the balance of us back up the river to Vicksburg. There we were put up and sold on the block, and you bought me.'

"Both McNeill and Knott were struck

with the boy's clear, but simple narrative, so completely corroborating the testimony of the negro man, 'Ike.' After a few minutes' thought, Mr. McNeill turned to the boy and said: 'John, this gentleman has come all the way from your old home to see me about you. He, as well as those who sent him, think that you are a white boy.' As quick as lightning the boy sprang to the center of the room, with both hands raised, and his face beaming with joy, he cried out: 'There, I knew that I was a white boy.' 'Yes, John,' the master said, 'I believe that you are. Go to the dining room.'

"The two men sat confronting each other for minutes; to Brother Knott they seemed as hours. Neither of them spoke, but Brother Knott saw from the face of his host that a terrible conflict was raging in his mind. At last Mr. McNeill broke the silence by saying: 'Mr. Knott, I will not keep the boy an hour longer as my servant. No, sir, not for twice his cost. Something must be

done for him; what it is, I am not now prepared to say. Can you suggest what should be done?' Mr. McNeill had conquered himself. Brother Knott, with eyes overflowing with tears, simply said: 'Do as you would be done by.' Then Mr. McNeill, fully as much affected as Mr. Knott, replied: 'The evidence and other documents which you have furnished, substantiated so completely by the simple statements of the boy, compel me to believe that a great injustice has been inflicted on him. I can not doubt for a moment that he is the victim of man's inhumanity to man, and that he is what you suppose him to be, a white boy. Unhappily for him, he can not undo this great wrong that has been done him by a resort to the courts of his country. Law was once my profession and I am well aware of the fact that, if I so determine, there is no earthly tribunal powerful enough to wrest him from my possession. But my very nature revolts against holding

one as a slave who was born as free as myself. And I repeat my first decision, and still say that I will not keep him as a slave. I must determine on some mode by which this great wrong may be rectified, and the dictates of justice and humanity complied with. You must stay with me until it is accomplished, even if it takes a month to do it.' Brother Knott told him that he could not remain from home for a month, but that he was willing to stay a week. 'A week will do,' replied Mr. McNeill; and thus Brother Knott became his guest for a week. Meanwhile Brother Knott was wondering within himself what Mr. McNeill would do with the boy John. Two days had passed away, and his host had not mentioned the subject, except in a casual way, and then without any intimation of what his intentions were; consequently, he was growing somewhat uneasy. On the morning of the third day he discovered that Mr. McNeill had left the plantation, taking

the boy John with him, and that he had left no message for him. This increased his solicitude. After an early dinner, he had retired to the library or sitting room to enjoy his cigar, and to think over the object of his journey. In a short time he was joined by Mr. McNeill, who said that he had ridden over to the county-seat and held a consultation with his attorney. 'I have shown him all of the papers brought by you, he has read them carefully. I then had John to repeat his story, which he did without a contradiction. While I became more convinced than I was at first that he is a white boy, my attorney could not doubt the fact of his parentage, and he has advised me how to proceed. The conclusion of our consultation has been to set the boy free, and this I have done, and he is now as free as you or myself. I did not invite you to accompany me, as I left very early and did not wish to disturb your rest. Now, I have determined that the following

course will be the best for all parties concerned: I will give John a new name to be known by, and I will take him off to where none of my neighbors send their children, and give him a good education; and should he show sufficient merit when he arrives at manhood, I will help him on in the world as though he were my own son, because I feel that an All Wise Providence has selected me as the instrument to shape the destiny of this poor, unfortunate boy, John. Now, Mr. Knott, I do not want a knowledge of his former degradation to follow him. I have cautioned him not to talk about himself to my servants, or anyone else. My wife, whose heartiest sympathies have been aroused by the great afflictions that have been heaped upon this poor, unfortunate boy, fully agrees with me in my intentions, and is pledged to secrecy. Now, I must request you never to divulge the name that I give him, or the place of his future residence.' Brother

Knott readily made the required promise, as he heartily concurred in the course of Mr. McNeill and recognized the wisdom of the decision to keep the boy's former life from following after him. Mr. McNeill now said: 'Mr. Knott, I must request you, that in making your report to those noble men whom you represent, that after you give them that full and complete report that they are entitled to, you state to them my reasons for keeping his name and residence a secret. I am confident that they will appreciate my motives and endorse my course. As I wish all of the pleasure and the honor of providing for his future life, and I hope his future usefulness, it is my intention to be at all of the expense. I don't wish you to suppose that I would not like to have the money that the boy cost me refunded; this, of course, would be right, but it would cost more to attempt its recovery than I am willing to pay. Especially as it is doubtful if I could plead a

cause of action, because you tell me that Mr. McDavitt is dead, leaving no estate from which I could realize the money. I can not prosecute the man George, because the evidence of the negro is not admitted in the courts of your state. I have no recourse on any one, so that is all settled. The boy is free and I am glad that I had the privilege of giving him his freedom.

“‘Your lodge has acted nobly in this thing, and has exhibited great interest in the cause of humanity, as it is a fact beyond contradiction that had it not been for the zealous work of your lodge, this great wrong would never have been righted. Tell your lodge that if they are able to do so, to send me one-half of the purchase money of the boy, and I will expend it entirely for his benefit. If they are unable to do this, and you tell me that they are, it don’t matter. For their kindness, zeal and noble humanity, I will ever remember them with the greatest pleasure.’

“So, everything being properly and satisfactorily arranged, Brother Knott began to prepare for his return home. On the morning of his departure, Past Grand Knott was joined by Mr. McNeill, accompanied by John, who was very neatly dressed and made a very respectable appearance. Going overland to Memphis, they proceeded from that place to a small town in the interior of the state of Tennessee, where John was placed in a good school, and advised to say nothing whatever about his early life. After accomplishing this Brother Knott parted from Mr. McNeill and returned home. The committee were called together for the last time. Their names were Past Grands Joseph P. Knott, George W. Johnson, W. T. Knight, Fielding Neel and George Rowden. The final report was drawn up by the chairman and signed by the committee, preparatory to its presentation to the lodge. As the brothers of the lodge had knowledge of the interesting

character of the report, the room was filled at the next meeting of the lodge. On the reading of Past Grand Knott's communications detailing a history of his mission and its favorable results, and telling of the noble generosity of Mr. McNeill, there were very few dry eyes among those who heard him. The report was received and adopted and the committee, after a faithful service for nearly two years, were discharged.

"As the lodge was not able to do so, and if able, could not appropriate the money without the consent of the Grand Lodge, the part of the purchase money was not sent to Mr. McNeill, but Brother Knott's bill was allowed and ordered paid, this of itself amounting to a considerable sum.

"Brothers, long years after this, in a far distant place, I stood by the bedside of the man George, while he breathed his life away. As I gazed on his quivering lips, and into his tearful eyes, I wondered if he had no thoughts for the poor boy that he

had so cruelly wronged. And as I helped to lower his body into its last resting place, I softly said to myself: 'Now, go! face the Grand Master of the universe, and see if the poor boy that you sold for gold will not stand beside you as an accuser. You never made him any restitution in this life; you must be condemned in the future one, and the gold that you have worshiped in this life will be no gold in that other world!'

"Brother James McDavitt was a nephew of George McDavitt and was a member of this lodge at the time of the incidents heretofore narrated. He had accompanied his uncle on the trip to Vicksburg when the boy John was sold, and thus became acquainted with Mr. McNeill, and, of course, also knew John. And after the trial of his uncle by the lodge, he knew all about the singular history of John. After the removal of his uncle he studied law, and was admitted to the bar as an attorney. Sometime after this he located in Memphis, Ten-

nessee. In a letter that I received from him in the year 1859, he informed me that he had seen Mr. McNeill in the city of Memphis, and had asked him about John. The old gentleman's eyes sparkled with delight, as he informed him that John was a prosperous planter, and accumulating a fortune, but better still, commanding the respect and esteem of all of his neighbors. He cheerfully gave Mr. McDavitt these facts, but he positively refused to tell his name, or give the place of his residence. Since the war I have never heard of John, as the brother at Memphis fell in the battle of Iuka, and I know of no person able to furnish me any further information. Possibly John was swallowed up in the great revolution that convulsed this country. Perhaps he fell, wearing either the blue or the gray; if so, peace to his ashes! Possibly he may be alive, I can not say. But, whatever his fate, he certainly owes much to Odd Fellowship—and that without knowing it."

This, my friends, concludes the mysterious manuscript which we had received. You will notice that the writer leaves the fate of "John" in an unsettled, uncertain shape. Of this we will show more further on.

As I stated in the beginning, we do not as yet know who wrote or sent the manuscript, but I will say that in a few days we are confident the committee will know all about it.

It has been thought best at this point to introduce some material from the records of our lodge, which corroborate the manuscript in every particular, and which will be of such a character as to convince the most skeptical person of the absolute truthfulness of the manuscript. Past Grand Knott removed from Shelbyville in the fall of 1847, taking with him a withdrawal card from our lodge, thus removing from us the only one who would have been likely to know anything about the fate

of the boy John, as he was the only one who had corresponded with Mr. McNeill, and even he was under the pledge of secrecy as to John's name and place of residence. We wish to inform you that this Brother Knott was the father of our ex-Governor J. Proctor Knott. I will now read some extracts from the records of our lodge applying to this case, every part of which is absolutely true, and we have the original letters, papers and reports signed by the committee. Some of these are spread in full on the minutes of the lodge, while others were simply noted and filed. The first thing that appears upon our records is this: "On motion of Brother Past Grand Johnson the following resolution was adopted: Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of divers members of this lodge, as has been stated by them in open lodge, that certain rumors prejudicial to the standing of our Brother George McDavitt are in circulation in this community, and the lodge believing that an op-

portunity should be given Brother McDavitt to place himself in a proper light in regard to these rumors; Therefore, be it resolved that Brothers Joseph P. Knott, George W. Johnson, and Fielding Neel, be a committee to write to Brother McDavitt, stating the whole circumstances as they have been detailed to this lodge."

Some time after this, the committee made a report of their work, and the conclusion of their report is as follows:

"We have received a letter from Brother McDavitt, and herewith submit it as a part of our report. Signed by the committee."

On motion of Brother Past Grand Hill, the letter of Brother McDavitt was ordered spread on the minutes, and is as follows:

"Vicksburg, Miss., January 7, 1846.

"To Brothers Neel, Knott and Johnson:

"Sirs and Brothers: I have just received a letter from you which very much surprised me. From the manner in which my

name was spelled on the back of it I thought that perhaps it might be a hoax, written by some person wishing to find out something. The direction on the back was to George W. McDaved, which you know is erroneous, and the contents were very imperfectly explained. It was in relation to a certain yellow boy by the name of 'John,' whom I took to the South for Mr. George. But if the letter was written by some unknown person, I shall send this in such a way as to elude his grasp. If it be really from you, you shall have the facts freely, fairly and fully, for there is no set of men in whose hands I could so freely entrust my property, character, the reputation of my family, and my very life itself, as the members of Howard Lodge. As to the boy John, I know but little. I never saw him until the morning that I left Mr. George to go South. The boy was at Mr. Cleminson's factory, and as we passed with the other negroes, George went in and got him. Mr.

George had previously described the boy to me as being worth \$500, and wished me to take him in at that price. But I refused. So he got me to take him for him, and sell him for what I could get. I did so, and sold him in Vicksburg for \$250, to a Mr. McNeill, residing in Red Gulf, Miss. I did not charge Mr. George anything for my trouble. I kept an account of the boy's expenses and deducted that and gave Mr. George the balance. Mr. George wrote me lately to know who I sold the boy to, and where the purchaser resided. I replied immediately, giving him the facts. He expressed a desire to buy him back. I had heard of such a boy belonging to Mr. George for several years. Our Brother, Daniel White, told me of Clagett Stout having hired him at one time. I never had any idea but that he was a slave for life. Mr. George told me how he came by him, but I do not now recollect his tale. The boy was quite bright, but I have seen other slaves

equally as bright. Mr. George never showed me any bill of sale for him, nor did he give me any. He entrusted the boy entirely to my honor, that is the sale of him, as he had done many matters before, and I never abused his confidence. But as far as his title to the boy was concerned, or the boy being entitled to his freedom, let the matter terminate as it may, God knows I am innocent of ever suspecting such a thing, until the receipt of your letter. In Vicksburg, where I sold the boy, I associated with a number of our order, the auctioneer who sold the boy John, together with several other negroes for me, is a merchant there. His name is John R. Stockman. His firm is Stockman & Painter, both good Odd Fellows. I would like for you to write to them on the subject. They might give some information of the course to be pursued by the civil authorities there. I know that if Mr. George would buy him back, they would give every assistance in

their power, and so would other members of the order there with whom I was acquainted, to effect any honorable arrangement. I wish you to see Mr. George, privately, and if it is a fact that he has thus imposed upon me, you can apprise him of the fact that he has more to dread from the account he will have to render to me personally, than from any legal proceedings which may be preferred against him. As this is a matter of vital importance to me, you will immediately give me all of the information in the case.

“Yours in F., L. & T.,

“George McDavitt.

“P. S.—As I entrust the matter entirely to your care and arrangement, don’t keep me in suspense, but give me a detailed account immediately, and direct me what to do, for my present feelings are to resist all civil authority, and to personally defend my innocence even at the sacrifice of my life. Write immediately.”

After this report the matter was brought to trial by the lodge, as set forth in the manuscript that I have read. Only as stated, the "Committee on the Boy John," would be called, report progress and ask for further time. This continued for quite awhile, until after a report by the committee giving a statement of the situation of the case, made on the night of April 26, 1847—just forty-nine years ago last night—it was ordered that a letter be written to the postmaster at Red Gulf, Miss., inquiring about the boy John. The following two letters were received in answer to the letter of inquiry:

"Postoffice Red Gulf, Miss., May 10, 1847.
"To Jas. L. Ellingwood, Postmaster, Shelbyville, Ky.:

"Sir: In reply to a letter received from Mr. J. P. Knott, he will receive a letter from Mr. James McNeill, a wealthy planter, who resides near here, and who I think now has

the boy that you are in search of in his possession. Any further information that I can give you will be cheerfully given.

“Yours respectfully,

“William Dowde, Postmaster.”

“ Red Gulf, Miss., May 11, 1847.

“Jos. P. Knott, Esq.:

“Dear Sir: The postmaster of this place, Mr. William Dowde, has shown me this morning your communication of the 6th inst., to him. As I am deeply interested in the matter which it contains I beg leave to address you in regard to it. Sometime in the last fall I purchased a bright mulatto boy, about fifteen years of age, bearing the name of John, since which time he has been working on my plantation, receiving the same treatment as negroes generally receive on cotton farms in this country. I kept him out on my cotton plantation until a few weeks ago, when, for satisfactory reasons, I brought him to my home, and he

has been acting as a dining room servant. I bought him at Vicksburg, under the hammer, for the sum of \$250. Who his owners were prior to that time I can not say, but I think that he was brought down the river with some other slaves by a man by the name of either McDaniel or McDavitt, I am not certain which. Judging from your statements I firmly believe that the boy John, that I now hold in my possession as a slave, is the same boy that you are in search of. If I can be of any further service, or you desire any additional information on the subject, you only have to command

“Your obedient servant,

“James Y. McNeill.”

At the next meeting of the lodge, after the receipt of these two letters, the following order was passed: “On motion it was resolved that Brother Jos. P. Knott be appointed to visit Red Gulf, Miss., to inquire

for a certain boy by the name of John, sold by George McDavitt, as agent for Mr. George. This boy was sold as a slave, while he is now claimed to be a white boy, and, of course, free born. It is further ordered that Brother Knott shall be the agent of this lodge, and he is hereby authorized and required to take such steps as may be necessary to secure to the boy his freedom, and restoration to liberty. The Noble Grand is hereby authorized to draw his order on the treasurer for the sum of \$50 to defray his expenses." It was in obedience to this order that Brother Knott made his visit to the South.

We will now give you for your consideration some extracts from the report made to the lodge by Brother Knott on his return from this trip. Said report was made on the night of June 7, 1847, and was spread in full on the minutes of that night. His report is as follows:

"Brothers: In obedience to a resolution

adopted May 17, 1847, ordering me to proceed to the state of Mississippi, in pursuit of a certain boy by the name of John, sold by George McDavitt, as the property of Mr. George, which boy is thought to be free born, I respectfully report as follows, to wit: I left Louisville on the morning of the 20th of May, on board the steamer 'Yorktown,' T. J. Halderman, Master. I landed at Red Gulf, Coahoma county, Mississippi, on the morning of the 25th. I soon found the object of my search. I found the boy John in the possession of Mr. James Y. McNeill, a gentleman of whose noble, generous, magnanimous spirit I can not speak in terms too high. The boy had a short time before my visit been taken from the cotton fields and made a house servant. He thus fell under the care and keeping of Mrs. McNeill, who treats him with all the tenderness and humanity belonging to the most amiable of her sex. When the boy was presented to me his countenance was so

haggard, so cast down, so dejected, I was almost induced to believe him insane. I put several questions to him in regard to persons and subjects with which I knew he had once been familiar. Of none of these he seemed to have any recollection. The next day he came to me and gave me quite a rational and correct history of himself, from the time he came into the possession of Mr. George unto the present time. He says "Mr. George took him home in the night, and that Mr. George told him to tell everybody that his mother was a yellow woman, and he was a slave. Mr. George told him that he had bought him of Silas Payne and had given a horse for him. But the boy says that he never knew Silas Payne; he has no recollection of ever having seen such a man. He says that while he wore a hat, his hair was white and soft as any other boy's hair. While Mrs. George was living he slept in the house and she treated him almost as one of her own fam-

ily. When she died, he was put into the fields to work without a hat, and was not allowed to wear one, either winter or summer. He was not allowed any pants during the summer months. After working on Mr. George's place for some years, he was hired out. He was first hired to a man in Taylorsville, then to Mr. Stout, then put in Dr. Parker's brick yard, then hired to Mr. Cleminson. Mr. George took him from Mr. Cleminson's and said he was to go and live with his brother-in-law down on the river. They had not gone far until they met Mr. McDavitt with a number of negroes bound for the South. They went to Louisville and got on a boat and went on down to New Orleans, and were there put in jail for several days. Mr. McDavitt sold several of the negroes there, but was not able to sell all of his gang. He brought me and four others back up the river to Vicksburg, and there sold me at a public auction to Mr. McNeill.'

“The foregoing is substantially the simple statement of the boy. Before I left I became convinced that the boy’s want of recollection of past events is not at all remarkable. He has during the past six or seven years been removed entirely from all of the associations of his childhood, and placed in an altogether different sphere of life. He has eaten, drunk, slept and labored with negroes, until he has lost all self respect. The miseries of his latter days have eradicated all recollections of his former days. Yet he has never become reconciled to associate with the negroes. Upon Sundays and other holidays he would go off by himself, too dejected to stay with the white family and too proud to equalize himself with the negroes. I should have brought the boy with me, but, for certain reasons that I will give to you verbally, it was thought advisable to not do so now. The course to be pursued in this matter is for the lodge in its wisdom to decide. If

thought advisable by the lodge, I would ask that the thanks of Howard Lodge be tendered to Mr. James McNeill, and Messrs. Dowde, postmaster at Red Gulf, Bridewell, Keys, Coffee, Harrington and the good people of Red Gulf generally for their kind and courteous treatment of your humble representative. All of which your humble servant would submit for the consideration of the lodge, in the bonds of Friendship, Love and Truth.

“Joseph P. Knott.”

Our records further say that, after the reading of the above report, Brother Knott made quite a lengthy verbal report, which was intensely interesting, and we have no doubt in saying that it was from this verbal report the writer of the manuscript was enabled to make his paper so full and complete. Without the knowledge derived from this verbal report no one could have presented the subject in its pres-

ent complete form. From this date there appears very little on the subject in our records, as on the next meeting of the lodge the committee on the boy John were discharged.

It will be interesting at this point to introduce the following testimony, which recently came to our knowledge:

There is now living in Shelbyville, Ky., an old negro man, who was owned by a neighbor and lived on the adjoining farm to the one owned by John's master. Thinking that possibly he might know something about the case, he was approached a few days ago, and asked if he remembered a yellow boy named John who had been owned by Mr. George. He replied, "Yes, sir, I'se played wid him many a time." "Well, Charlie, what became of him?" "Why, boss, he was sold down de river; and don't you know, boss, dat boy war no nigger, he war white, dat boy wuz jist as white ez you is." "Charlie, do you know how Mr. George used

to treat John?" "Deed I does, boss. Don't you know dat as long as I knowed dat boy, he nebber wore no hat, either in summer or winter; and in summer time old Mr. George neber would 'low him to war any briches, but made him go all of de time wid only an old ragged shirt on. He would let him war briches in de winter time. Boss, duz you know why he done him dis way?" "No, Charlie, I do not; why was it?" "Well, I will tell you why. It wuz so as to tan him and make him look like a yallow nigger." "Well, Charlie, do you know where Mr. George got John? Did he own his mother?" "No, sir, he nebber owned his mother, nor no one ebber did know who his mother wuz. I will tell you whar he got John. All of us niggers knowed dat. Massa George's old 'Ike,' he toll me so he-self. He said dat his old Massa he had swapped a hoss to some movers for de boy."

There is in this audience to-night a gentleman of unquestioned veracity, who is

well acquainted with all of the facts in the case, as they transpired in this community. In fact, John, while at work in the rope walk at Shelbyville, turned the twin wheel for him. He says that "while John was at work for Mr. Cleminson, John made an attempt to drown himself (being so disheartened by his enforced servitude) in a pond just back of the residence of Mr. Sam Brown, but was prevented from accomplishing his purpose. That boy was always very much depressed, and never seemed to mix much with the negroes."

And now let us bring the subject down to present time. I suppose that a great many of you would like to know what finally became of the boy John. If you will remember, the writer of the manuscript, after ascertaining from Brother James McDavitt in Memphis, that John was then a prosperous planter in one of the Southern States, lost all trace of him. This was shortly before the war. We will now see if we can

not enlighten you a little more concerning the latter days of the boy John.

Sometime ago the minute book of our lodge showed the following: "Ordered, that the secretary be and he is hereby allowed to use the seal of this lodge on such letters as he may desire to write in an endeavor to trace the boy John." Having secured this order, a systematic search for the boy slave of long ago was begun. With that potent factor in securing accurate and full answers to all letters of inquiry, he was confident of being able to accomplish the desired end; for, it is a fact that nowhere in this broad land can a letter of inquiry be sent, bearing the seal of an Odd Fellows' lodge, but a cheerful and full response will be given. So, by the aid of this powerful instrument, we are able to present you these two pictures: Of course, the first thought of any one would be to attempt to trace the boy John through the family of Mr. McNeill. We find that our trial along

this line does meet with partial success. There repose in one of the beautiful cemeteries of the Sunny South the mortal remains of hundreds of the chivalrous Southern planters. There is also erected there a monument, simple, chaste, which is rendered very impressive by the inscription carved into the imperishable granite, which reads as follows: "Sacred to the memory of James Y. McNeill, who was a man." This token of respect had been erected by one to whom he had been more than a father, and who will never be able to repay the half which he owes him. Before the war, Mr. McNeill possessed many broad acres, and enormous wealth in the slaves that he owned, but the war came on, and it seemed to treat Mr. McNeill as Satan treated Job; for at the very beginning he lost his wife, that noble helpmate of almost half a century. His numerous slaves were freed; his broad acres were the scene of one of those bloody conflicts which occurred in

that portion of the country. Pillage and spoliation were rife; nothing was spared. What could not be used was destroyed. And we find that, at the close of the war, Mr. McNeill was like unto Job, with no family, no slaves, no broad acres, no money, no friends—seemingly. But wait a moment; at the time that the horizon seemed darkest, and the outlook the gloomiest, there appeared a bright ray of sunshine. The bread that Mr. McNeill had cast on the waters a score of years before, returned to him after many days. A gentleman appeared, and took to his own home Mr. McNeill, who was broken down both in health and fortune, and for the few remaining years his pathway was strewn with flowers. Everything possible was done for him, by a gentleman and his wife, through feelings of love, respect and gratitude. Can you guess who they were?

We will now raise the veil which discloses another picture, and let you gaze on

its beauties. Go with us, if you will, to one of the rich and prosperous cities of the beautiful Southland. We will visit one of the most fashionable suburbs of that most attractive city. After traveling some distance along an avenue, bordered on either side by handsome residences, which indicate that wealth and refinement reign supreme here, we finally arrive at the gateway of a residence equal in all respects to any of its neighbors. We pass through the gate, and approach the house over a pathway rendered fragrant by the odor of the stately magnolias, which line the walk on both sides. We see before us a handsome and palatial dwelling, surrounded in true Southern style by wide and airy piazzas. We observe, seated in a comfortable chair, enjoying his afternoon cigar, a handsome, silver haired old gentleman, whose appearance involuntarily commands our respect. After presenting to him letters of introduction from a mutual friend, we are heart-

ily welcomed. We finally lead the conversation to his own affairs, and endeavor to extract from him an account of his life. We find that while he is courtesy itself, that he speaks with evident pride and pleasure of his family and all connected with them, and also of his own later life, he is very reticent about his early life. In fact to a pointed question, "Where were you born?" he does not reply, but, giving some evasive answer, adroitly changes the conversation. After being seated for a time a matronly lady makes her appearance, who is introduced to us as his wife. We linger awhile, loth to leave such a happy home, and one which so plainly indicates a prosperous, happy and loving family, one in which there is no skeleton in the closet. We arise to take our departure, after being pressed with true Southern hospitality to remain to tea, but we reluctantly bid them adieu, and receive a pressing invitation to call again. We return to

the city, and to our hotel. Seated in its lobby that night with a party of gentlemen, residents of the city, we turn the conversation to the old gentleman, to whom we have paid such a pleasant visit in the afternoon. We find that he has been a resident of the city for about twelve years, having amassed a competency on his plantation, and feeling the weight of years creeping upon him, disposed of his plantation and removed to the city, in which his children were already rising to positions of honor and trust. Since his residence here he had endeared himself to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. We are informed that there is no one in the entire city who stands higher among his fellow citizens than he. Among the party of gentlemen with whom we are conversing is one who is thoroughly familiar with the family affairs of the old gentleman, having been raised on an adjoining plantation to his. From him we learn that the antecedents of

the old gentleman are unknown. In fact, no one ever knew the place of his nativity. Shortly after the war he brought home with him an elderly gentleman, by name McNeill, whom he called "uncle." This "uncle" only lived for a couple of years after he came to live with him. It was the talk of the neighborhood, the kind and loving manner in which this old "uncle" was treated. When he died a very fine granite monument had been erected to his memory.

We are also able to glean the following facts about the family history of the gentleman and lady who received us so pleasantly in the afternoon. Four children had been born to bless the home of this deserving couple, of whom one died at an early age. Of the others, there was one daughter and two sons. One of the sons is now a prominent merchant of that city. The other son embarking in the railroad business, diligently applied himself to his calling, performing all its duties and now

occupies the proud and lucrative position of general superintendent of one of our prominent Southern railway systems. He controls successfully a host of men and vast financial interests. In the admirable administration of his business, he confers a great benefit not only to the railroad's affairs, but also upon his subordinates and to the whole country with which his railroad connects.

The daughter had married a gentleman who, as a politician, has already been honored by several positions of honor and responsibility, and has created for himself a name known far beyond the borders of his own state. I am confident that were I to call his name here to-night it would be recognized by more than one in this audience.

Gaze on this picture, and then turn your thoughts back to that little boy who was so ruthlessly sold into bondage, and say if the transformation is not wonderful! Con-

trast, if you please, that little naked, bare-headed slave up in Kentucky, with the rich and prosperous gentleman that we have just shown you! To whom is the transformation due? Had it not been for that humanity engendered by the teachings of our order in the breasts of those old brothers of the long ago—the zeal of their committee, and the unselfish, noble hearted philanthropy of the sainted McNeill, in the place of the rich blessings conferred on that distant city, by the pure, noble and spotless life of a good citizen, and the benefits arising from the lives of his children, we would possibly ere this have had a lonely, unmarked, unknown grave by the side of some stagnant Southern bayou. Or, if not this, and he should have lived until now, he would more than likely be a poor, ignorant laborer on a cotton plantation, eking out a bare existence. Are not every one of you glad that those old brothers so clearly

understood the fundamental principles of Friendship, Love and Truth?

Do you not think that were they here to-night and could see the result of their efforts of fifty years ago, they would feel amply repaid for their labor, money and time spent on behalf of "The Boy John?"

There is one point that has given us a great deal of thought and worry. It is whether to make the name now borne by the boy John and his present place of residence known or not. After mature deliberation we have decided, in respect to the wishes of his noble benefactor, Mr. McNeill, that he laid the foundation for the future usefulness of the "Boy John" and builded wiser than he knew when he requested that his name should not be disclosed. And further the making known of these facts could be of no actual benefit to any one, but would simply be the gratification of a mere idle curiosity, and in order to avoid a possible cloud being cast on the unblemished

escutcheon of that proud and happy Southern family, it is best that all evidence of their connection with the boy John be destroyed.

And now, as this, the only link by means of which that happy family can be connected with the boy John, turns to ashes, let us hope that our decision has been for the best. (At this point the committee burned in the presence of the audience the paper showing the name of the Boy John.)

And now, in conclusion, we, the present members of Howard Lodge, are proud to be able to present to you such an illustration of what Odd Fellowship has done in the past, and is now doing all over this broad land of ours for the alleviation of human misery.

We feel proud to be able to say that the names of such men as composed this lodge in its early days are on our records. They have by their acts added to our crown a jewel that will continue to shed its radiance

in long years to come, ever as bright as it glows to-night almost fifty years after its setting. We feel confident that we could not by any means in our power have been able to procure an orator who would have been capable with all of his powers of eloquence to pronounce such an encomium upon Odd Fellowship as the reading of this simple, true, little narrative has been.

Thanking you for your attention and your presence here to-night, and hoping that you have been interested, we will withdraw "The Boy John" from the gaze of the public.

Note.—The only fictitious name appearing in this story is that of the man George. The true name is withheld for reasons that are apparent to the reader.

**A Brief History of Howard Lodge No. 15,
I. O. O. F., of Shelbyville, Kentucky.**

Howard Lodge No. 15 was organized November 9, 1843; instituted November 16, 1843; incorporated January 1, 1855, as shown on Record Book, page 213.

The first lodge of Odd Fellows organized in the United States was at Baltimore, Maryland, on the 26th day of April, 1819, under the jurisdiction of the Manchester Order of England.

During the year 1842 the members of the order in the United States having become dissatisfied with the management of the parent Society, withdrew and formed themselves into a separate organization with new rituals and manner of work, and adopted the name which has since become so honorable, *The Independent Order of Odd Fellows*.

The first lodge in Kentucky was organ-

ized in Louisville, January 28, 1833, and was called Boone Lodge No. 1.

On March 17, 1835, Chosen Friends Lodge No. 2 was organized, and in the same year the Grand Lodge of Kentucky was also organized. At that time there were only 170 members and three lodges in the state. Now there are about 10,000 members and about 200 lodges doing active work.

The order in Kentucky was in its infancy when the following notice appeared in a weekly paper published at Shelbyville, Ky., called the *Shelby News*:

“Brothers of the I. O. O. F. in this place, who are in good standing will meet at seven o’clock this, Wednesday night, at the room over the store of W. H. Merriwether. Persons desirous of becoming members of the order will meet as above.”

Agreeable to that notice, on the night of November 9, 1843, there were assembled the Grand Master of the state, James L. Lithgow, of Louisville, Ky., assisted by

other Grand officers, and they duly organized Howard Lodge No. 15, I. O. O. F., with the following charter members: John C. Bull, Jos. L. Silcox, George Caplinger, Thomas Williams, Jno. B. Hinkle and F. Cunningham.

The lodge on this, its first meeting, received seven petitions for membership.

This was the beginning of the work of Howard Lodge in the cause of humanity, which has continued for more than half a century.

It must be recollected that Howard Lodge is a benevolent and charitable organization, and not a great financial corporation with unlimited resources.

The revenue of this institution is almost wholly derived from the weekly dues of its members, and these dues are ten cents each per week, or \$5.20 per year.

The good work accomplished shows what may be done by union and organization.

The receipts of Howard Lodge from its

organization in 1843 until its fiftieth anniversary celebration amounted to \$19,423.53.

The good which has been accomplished with this sum will never be known by the community, and the members of the lodge, at this time, would be amazed if they realized the full extent of the distribution.

With the exception of the small balance now in the treasury, every cent of this sum has been spent in deeds of charity; first, to the members, and, second, to all deserving, distressed and afflicted persons.

The motto of Odd Fellowship is Friendship, Love and Truth, and these impel our order to observe cases which might not appeal to every one, hence, Howard Lodge has unquestionably relieved many cases of distress that were unknown outside of the lodge room.

Howard Lodge to the 27th day of April, 1896, had enrolled 265 members. It had furnished several Grand officers to the Grand Lodge and upon its roll some of the

very best citizens, who in the past fifty years have called Shelbyville "home."

From June 30, 1873, to April 27, 1896, Howard Lodge paid 438 weeks' sick benefits with an average membership of forty, and, estimating from this basis, the preceding thirty years which averaged seventy-five, it is found that over 1,300 weekly sick benefits had been paid.

For the burying of the dead and the education of the orphan it has contributed large sums.

The amount Howard Lodge has contributed to worthy charity will far exceed the amount paid in weekly benefits; for an examination of the records shows that Howard Lodge had been represented upon every occasion that had arisen in Shelby county, when it became necessary to obtain money for the relief of any distressed portion of our common country, such as in the yellow fever epidemics in the South, the Kansas

sufferers, the Chicago fire, Ireland's famine, the Johnstown flood and other calamity-affected parts of the world.

Howard Lodge has never permitted a single instance to pass where its mite could be contributed for the relief of distress and want.

Howard Lodge also contributed to the Washington Monument, in 1849, and a stone represents it therein.

It is a noteworthy fact that while Howard Lodge had been thus active in the cause of humanity from its scanty stores, it had never received from any outside source donations of money, except once, and upon the following occasion: On July 1, 1873, the young ladies composing the "Eutopian Society," of Science Hill School, founded by Mrs. Julia A. Tevis, in Shelbyville, gave to Howard Lodge one-half of the proceeds from an entertainment given by them, amounting to \$31.

Of local interest we mention the following:

The room in which Howard Lodge was organized was located on the south side of Main street, in Shelbyville, between Fifth and Sixth streets, where the store of J. J. Ramsey & Bro. is. The lodge continued to meet there until February, 1844, when it was removed a few doors east, into a building on the site of the store room now occupied by C. Schradski. On May 6, 1844, a public celebration was held at Shelbyville, upon which occasion there were 700 Odd Fellows present, representing lodges of Louisville, Frankfort, Harrodsburg, Danville, Lexington and Lancaster. There were no railroads and but few turnpikes at that time, and some of the visiting brothers were compelled to travel by horseback or in vehicles 75 or 100 miles, but they bore discomfort cheerfully, and were earnest and zealous in the worthy cause.

April 26, 1845, a number of brothers vis-

ited Harrodsburg, Ky., to assist in a celebration at that place.

On September 8, 1845, a large delegation from Howard Lodge joined in the procession and took part in the services incident to the re-interment of the remains of Daniel Boone and wife, at Frankfort, Ky. Until the close of the year 1846, the terms of the lodge were quarterly; at that time they were made semi-annual, as now. The seal now in use by Howard Lodge was received and first used on March 29, 1847.

June 7, 1847, the lodge was removed into a room fitted for it, and located where the present Baptist Church stands.

On May 1, 1850, in conjunction with the Daughters of Temperance, Howard Lodge held a celebration at Shelbyville, which was largely attended.

On April 14, 1851, six brothers withdrew cards and organized a lodge at Simpsonville, in Shelby county.

Howard Lodge had grown, at this time,

to such proportions that it was thought advisable to divide it and a number of brothers withdrew and organized Shelby Lodge; but this step was ill-advised. Shelby Lodge existed seven or eight years, and then surrendered its charter.

On July 14, 1852, memorial services, in honor of Henry Clay, the great Commoner, were held in what was known as Lively's Woods, where the "Banner Flouring Mill" of Logan & Logan is situated. Howard Lodge participated in the exercises as a body, and the community almost as a unit.

On May 10, 1858, Howard Lodge was moved into a building which stood on the north side of Main street, between Fifth and Sixth, on the site where A. Rothchild & Son are engaged in the clothing business.

The breaking out of the Civil War in 1861 caused dire distress among all classes of our citizens, and meetings of Howard Lodge were few in number, and held at uncertain periods, viz: August 25, 1862; December 23, 1863, and June 26, 1865.

On July 31, 1865, Howard Lodge moved into Petry's Hall, on Sixth street, where it continued until October 21, 1871, when it removed to its own lodge room, having jointly purchased a lot and built on the public square, and now is the property of the city of Shelbyville, or "City Hall."

A public installation of officers was held at Layson Hall, January 6, 1880, conducted by the State Grand officers.

During the winter of 1880-1-2, a number of open meetings were held, which were much enjoyed by our brothers, and created an interest in the community in the cause of Odd Fellowship.

On November 9, 1893, the fiftieth anniversary of Howard Lodge was held at Layson Hall, Shelbyville, Ky., Past Grand Master W. H. Holt, of Frankfort, Ky., delivering the address.

In 1895, the increase in membership was about fifty per cent over that of the past ten years.

List of Members of Howard Lodge

*From organization in 1843 to present time, 1897—showing
when initiated; how withdrew; how and when
reinstated, when died, and those still living.*

Explanation.—“C.” for card; “N. P. D.,” suspended
for non-payment of dues.

CHARTER MEMBERS.

1843. Bull, Jno. C., initiated Nov. 9, 1843; withdrew
by card, Dec. 4, 1848.
1843. Caplinger, Geo. W., initiated Nov. 9, 1843; with-
drew by card, Nov. 16, 1843.
1843. Cunningham, F., initiated Nov. 9, 1843; with-
drew by card, Nov. 25, 1843.
1843. Hinkle, Jno. B., initiated Nov. 9, 1843; withdrew
by card, Nov. 16, 1843.
1843. Silcox, Jos. L., initiated Nov. 9, 1843; withdrew
by card, Nov. 9, 1846.
1843. Williams, Thos., initiated Nov. 9, 1843; with-
drew by card, Nov. 16, 1843.

ALPHABETICAL LIST.**A**

1847. Astley, William, initiated April 26, 1847; withdrew by card, June 18, 1847.
1847. Adams, Philip, initiated July 26, 1847; died at Florence, Texas, Sept. 6, 1890.
1848. Atherton, Wm. S., initiated June 5, 1848; died at Shelbyville, Ky., March 19, 1855.
1850. Allen, Jas. C., initiated Sept. 2, 1850; N. P. D., Jan. 9, 1855.
1851. Adams, Sam'l G., initiated Sept. 15, 1851; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1852. Adler, Jacob, initiated Dec. 6, 1852; withdrew by card, Aug. 25, 1856.
1854. Adams, Geo. E., initiated Jan. 2, 1854; withdrew by card, Feb. 9, 1854; reinstated by card, Feb. 18, 1855; withdrew by card, Oct. 2, 1865.
1855. Armstrong, Geo. A., admitted by card, June 25, 1855; withdrew by card, Nov. 19, 1860.
1855. Atherton, O. B., admitted by card, Aug. 13, 1855; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858; reinstated, April 25, 1859; withdrew by card, Jan. 30, 1860.
1869. Anderson, L. E., initiated Sept. 29, 1869; N. P. D., April 3, 1877, reinstated Dec. 24, 1878; withdrew by card, Oct. 4, 1884.

1869. Arnold, James E., initiated Dec. 7, 1869; N. P. D., April 3, 1877.
1875. Allen, Jas. B., initiated May 25, 1875; N. P. D., March 4, 1879.
1876. Atherton, W. S., initiated Sept. 19, 1876; withdrew by card, Jan. 19, 1892.
1888. Adams, J. P., admitted by card, Jan. 3, 1888; living.
1895. Adams, Warner, initiated June 28, 1895; living.
1897. Abraham, Jacob, admitted by card, Jan. 26, 1897; living.

B

1843. Bacon, T., initiated Nov. 16, 1843; withdrew by card, Aug. 5, 1850.
1844. Brown, Oscar, initiated Feb. 26, 1844; withdrew by card, Jan. 31, 1848.
1844. Blackiston, Ben F., initiated May 2, 1844; withdrew by card, April 12, 1870; reinstated by card Nov. 8, 1870; died at New Albany, Ind., May 13, 1893.
1844. Brown, John, initiated May 20, 1844; withdrew by card, Sept. 30, 1850.
1844. Boyd, Byram, initiated Dec. 2, 1844; withdrew by card, Feb. 6, 1848.
1847. Britton, Robt. A., initiated Oct. 7, 1847; withdrew by card, Nov. 25, 1849.
1848. Broadus, W. F., admitted by card, Dec. 11, 1848; N. P. D., Jan. 1, 1850.

1848. Beall, Jas. F., initiated Dec. 25, 1848; died at Shelbyville, Jan. 6, 1852.
1849. Bell, Patterson J., initiated Feb. 12, 1849; died at Shelbyville, Ky., May 7, 1850.
1850. Brown, Thos W., initiated May 13, 1850; withdrew by card, June 23, 1851.
1850. Boswell, J. R., initiated Aug. 12, 1850; died Dec. 19, 1852.
1851. Blumer, Chas. E., initiated Dec. 15, 1851; withdrew by card, Nov. 16, 1855; reinstated by card, June 2, 1856; withdrew by card, Sept. 2, 1856; reinstated by card, May 4, 1857; N. P. D., April 28, 1868.
1854. Brown, Wm., initiated May 15, 1854; N. P. D., Dec. 25, 1865.
1860. Bellwood, R. B., admitted by card, Oct. 22, 1860; withdrew by card, Aug. 12, 1867.
1868. Berry, Geo. L., initiated May 4, 1868; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1869. Baker, Chas., initiated Dec. 21, 1869; withdrew by card, Nov. 7, 1871.
1871. Baker, Jas. B., initiated Nov. 7, 1871; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1875. Brown, Jas. W., initiated Sept. 7, 1875; N. P. D., Dec. 26, 1882.
1875. Brown, J. T., initiated Sept. 7, 1875; N. P. D., Aug. 30, 1881.
1884. Bodkin, J. Wilson, initiated Feb. 12, 1884; living.
1893. Bilyeu, Chas., initiated Oct. 10, 1893; living.

1893. Bennett, Ben F., initiated Oct. 24, 1893; living.
1893. Bilyeu, Carlos, admitted by card, Nov. 7, 1893;
withdrew by card, March 19, 1895.
1893. Bailey, T. C., initiated Nov. 21, 1893; living.
1893. Beard, P. J., initiated Dec. 5, 1893; living.
1893. Bland, T. E., initiated Dec. 12, 1893; living.
1893. Ballard, Camden W., initiated Dec. 19, 1893;
living.
1894. Bryan, J. T., M. D., initiated Jan. 2, 1894; N. P.
D., Aug. 11, 1896.
1894. Bell, W. T., admitted by card, June 22, 1894;
living.

C

1844. Chinn, Hector A., initiated March 18, 1844; with-
drew by card, Oct. 18, 1858.
1846. Coots, Jno. M., initiated Jan. 19, 1846; N. P. D.,
April 24, 1854.
1847. Clemison, Wm., initiated June 7, 1847; with-
drew by card, July 27, 1852.
1851. Chinn, Jno. F., Jan. 20, 1851; living.
1851. Cochran, Thos. B., initiated April 28, 1851; with-
drew by card, Oct. 24, 1853.
1851. Crafton, John, initiated Sept. 1, 1851; N. P. D.,
Aug. 21, 1854.
1852. Coots, Reuben M., initiated March 22, 1852; N.
P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1854. Cardwell, Jesse J., initiated May 8, 1854; died
July 18, 1856.

1858. Churchill, J. S., initiated Feb. 22, 1858; withdrew by card, Jan. 14, 1861.
1868. Choate, Harry, initiated May 4, 1868; died at Shelbyville, Ky., March 25, 1895.
1868. Cook, Thos E., initiated May 4, 1868; N. P. D., March 4, 1879.
1869. Churchill, Chas. W., initiated Feb. 1, 1869; withdrew by card, July 4, 1871.
1872. Cook, A. B., initiated March 26, 1872; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1875. Carson, C. W., initiated June 1, 1875; N. P. D., Sept. 10, 1878.
1875. Carrithers, A. T., initiated June 15, 1875; withdrew by card, Feb. 6, 1877.
1877. Coleman, J. B., admitted by card, Jan. 9, 1877; withdrew by card, March 6, 1877.
1879. Caspar, Chas., admitted by card, Oct. 14, 1879; N. P. D., Nov. 17, 1885.
1879. Cozine, Jno. P., admitted by card, Dec. 30, 1879; died at Shelbyville, Ky., Jan. 27, 1897.
1880. Culter, W. M., admitted by card, Feb. 10, 1880; N. P. D., July 31, 1883.
1881. Coots, E. M., initiated April 26, 1881; withdrew by card, May 30, 1882.
1892. Choate, Geo. L., initiated Oct. 4, 1892; living.
1896. Carter, C. D., initiated May 12, 1896; living.

D

1848. Dolph, John, admitted by card, Aug. 14, 1848;
N. P. D., Feb. 9, 1852.
1849. Dunn, Jas. H., initiated Jan. 8, 1849; died at
Shelbyville, Ky., July 27, 1897.
1849. Dorsey, R. M., initiated Feb. 19, 1849; withdrew
by card, July 6, 1857.
1849. Dighton, A. J., initiated Oct. 8, 1849; withdrew
by card, Aug. 27, 1850.
1851. Davis, Wm. F., initiated April 28, 1851; N. P. D.,
Feb. 19, 1855; reinstated, Nov. 8, 1858;
withdrew by card, Nov. 8, 1858.
1856. Drane, T. J., Rev., admitted by card, Jan. 21,
1856; withdrew by card, June 30, 1856.
1856. Demaree, Geo. W., initiated Feb. 4, 1856; N. P.
D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1869. Denny, Daniel, initiated Jan. 18, 1869; N. P. D.,
July 28, 1874.
1869. Duvall, Hugh T., initiated April 19, 1869; living.
1874. Dunn, J. H., Jr., initiated Jan. 6, 1874; living.
1883. Dunn, Victor, initiated Jan. 1, 1883; living.
1885. Dunn, L. C., initiated June 30, 1885; living.
1893. Doss, E. J., admitted by card, Nov. 21, 1893;
living.
1897. Davis, W. E., admitted by card, Jan. 19, 1897;
living.
1897. Dunn, L. M., initiated Aug. 17, 1897; living.

E

1846. Ellingwood, Jas. L., initiated May 11, 1846; withdrew by card, Oct. 18, 1858.
1847. Edwards, Wm. L., initiated May 10, 1847; withdrew by card, June 18, 1847.
1872. Ellis, Thomas, initiated June 18, 1872; N. P. D., July 31, 1883.

F

1843. Ford, R., initiated Nov. 16, 1843; N. P. D., Nov. 7, 1853.
1845. Fishback, Geo. W., initiated May 5, 1845; died at Shelbyville, Ky., June 1, 1876.
1846. Fulton, John, initiated Jan. 12, 1846; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1855. Frederick, Lewis, initiated May 7, 1855; withdrew by card, Dec. 10, 1855.
1873. Fenn, Harry S., initiated Feb. 25, 1873; N. P. D., June 27, 1876.
1894. Fawkes, John, initiated April 3, 1894; living.
1895. Finnell, H. T., initiated July 2, 1895; living.

G

1844. Glass, Robt. W., initiated Feb. 26, 1844; withdrew by card, June 23, 1851.
1844. Gibson, Chas., initiated Dec. 9, 1844; withdrew by card, Sept. 3, 1849.

1846. Gore, Chas. A., initiated Jan. 26, 1846; withdrew by card, June 23, 1851.
1848. Graham, S. Benj., initiated Feb. 28, 1848; expelled, March 26, 1849.
1848. Gruber, Lewis H., initiated March 6, 1848; withdrew by card, Oct. 6, 1851; reinstated by card, July 24, 1854; withdrew by card, between Aug., 1862, and Dec., 1862; reinstated by card, June 18, 1868; living.
1848. Grinsley, Jos. W., initiated March 7, 1848; withdrew by card Jan. 14, 1851.
1848. Garrett, L. B., initiated Aug. 28, 1848; N. P. D., Feb. 9, 1852.
1849. Grant, E. A., initiated Oct. 29, 1849; withdrew by card, March 18, 1850.
1856. Griffin, A. E., admitted by card, Sept. 15, 1856; withdrew by card, April 6, 1857.
1872. Gibson, Jno. E., admitted by card, Dec. 3, 1872; N. P. D., Aug. 30, 1881.
1882. Gruber, Lynn T., initiated Jan. 17, 1882; living.
1884. Gruber, Henry C., initiated Feb. 12, 1884; living.
1893. Gambril, John, initiated Nov. 28, 1893; N. P. D., April 20, 1897.
1893. Glenn, A. J., initiated Nov. 28, 1893; living.

H

1843. Hill, W. F., initiated Nov. 16, 1843; N. P. D., Nov. 7, 1853.

1843. Hastings, Henry L., initiated Nov. 16, 1843; expelled, Feb. 24, 1851.
1844. Hewlett, Jas. E., initiated Feb. 26, 1844; withdrew by card, June 23, 1851.
1844. Hall, Joseph, initiated Feb. 26, 1844; withdrew by card, June 23, 1851.
1848. Hall, John, initiated Jan. 31, 1848; N. P. D., July 21, 1856.
1849. Hastings, John D., initiated Feb. 19, 1849; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1849. Humphreys, Geo. W., initiated Feb. 26, 1849; N. P. D., March 1, 1852.
1853. Hicks, Erasmus B., initiated Nov. 21, 1853; died at Shelbyville, Ky., Feb. 25, 1856.
1858. Hagist, G. F., initiated Feb. 22, 1858; withdrew by card, Nov. 15, 1858.
1868. Huber, Lewis A., initiated May 11, 1868; withdrew by card, Oct. 12, 1868.
1869. Humes, Chas. W., initiated Feb. 1, 1869; N. P. D., Sept. 15, 1885.
1869. Hickman, H. Pierce, initiated Feb. 8, 1869; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1869. Hope, John N., initiated Aug. 23, 1869; N. P. D., April 3, 1877.
1870. Humes, Geo. B., initiated Jan. 11, 1870; living.
1870. Hastings, Jno. F., initiated March 15, 1870; living.
1870. Humes, Creighton F., initiated April 12, 1870; living.

1871. Heaton, Jno. S., initiated May 9, 1871; N. P. D., Aug. 30, 1881; reinstated Dec. 19, 1893; living.
1871. Harrihan, J. T., initiated Oct. 24, 1871; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1875. Holland, L. M., initiated Jan. 26, 1875; N. P. D., Aug. 30, 1881.
1875. Hollenbach, A., initiated Nov. 16, 1875; N. P. D., Sept. 10, 1878.
1876. Hershey, James, initiated March 28, 1876; N. P. D., Sept. 10, 1878.
1887. Hastings, W. P., initiated March 5, 1887; N. P. D., Aug. 11, 1896.
1894. Hutton, C. G., initiated March 6, 1894; withdrew by card, June 12, 1894; reinstated by card, Oct. 16, 1894; withdrew by card, July 9, 1895.

J

1843. Johnston, Geo. W., initiated Nov. 21, 1843; withdrew by card, Oct. 4, 1852.
1846. Johnston, H. P., initiated April 13, 1846; withdrew by card, May 24, 1846; reinstated by card, Sept. 4, 1848; withdrew by card, Dec. 6, 1852.
1847. Jones, W. W., initiated Nov. 1, 1847; withdrew by card, April 9, 1849.
1870. Jones, Robt. L., initiated Jan. 25, 1870; N. P. D., March 4, 1879.

1871. Jones, Shelby W., initiated June 20, 1871; N. P. D., Aug. 30, 1881.
1872. Johnson, Chas. H., initiated March 12, 1872; withdrew by card, Oct. 4, 1881.
1892. Jones, Ed. P., initiated Dec. 29, 1892; N. P. D., April 2, 1895.
1896. Johnson, Richard G., initiated May 26, 1896; living.

K

1843. Knight, W. T., initiated Nov. 21, 1843; N. P. D., April 24, 1854.
1845. Knott, Jos. P., initiated Feb. 10, 1845; withdrew by card, Dec. 20, 1847.
1856. Knefler, Jos. admitted by card, April 14, 1856; withdrew by card, June 27, 1859.
1870. Krueger, Fred., initiated Nov. 1, 1870; withdrew by card, March 15, 1881.
1871. Krueger, Henry., initiated Feb. 28, 1871; N. P. D., July 31, 1883.
1871. Krueger, Louis A., initiated Feb. 28, 1871; withdrew by card, Sept. 13, 1881.
1871. Kestler, Jos., initiated June 27, 1871; N. P. D., March 28, 1876.
1871. Kinkle, Chas., initiated Sept. 19, 1871; withdrew by card, Jan. 6, 1874.
1875. Kuttner, J. H., admitted by card, Jan. 26, 1875; N. P. D., July 31, 1883.

1875. Kinkead, Warner S., initiated May 11, 1875; N. P. D., July 28, 1884.
1875. Kinkead, Samuel E., initiated June 15, 1875; died at Lousiville, Ky., April 3, 1883.
1892. Kinser, W. N., initiated Oct. 18, 1892; living.
1893. Kirk, Sidney S., initiated April 11, 1893; living.

L

1852. Longest, James, initiated March 22, 1852; withdrew by card, Jan. 30, 1854.
1856. Louenthall, Simpson, initiated Feb. 11, 1856; withdrew by card, July 8, 1856.
1858. Lawell, A. V., initiated Feb. 14, 1858; withdrew by card, July 24, 1865.
1868. Layson, Hercules, initiated June 1, 1868; N. P. D., June 12, 1877.
1871. Luthin, Ferd, initiated Feb. 14, 1871; N. P. D., July 29, 1884; reinstated April 9, 1889; living.
1880. Logan, R. F., Dr., initiated Feb. 17, 1880; withdrew by card, Nov. 23, 1880; reinstated by card, Nov. 29, 1881; N. P. D., Oct. 30, 1888.

M

1844. Middleton, Henri F., initiated Feb. 26, 1844; died at Shelbyville, Ky., Sept. 11, 1878.
1846. Miller, Jno. L., admitted by card, Oct. 12, 1846; withdrew by card, Jan. 9, 1848.

1847. Miller, Daniel, initiated June 7, 1847; N. P. D., Dec. 30, 1848.
1847. Martin, Benj., initiated Aug. 30, 1847; withdrew by card, April 14, 1851.
1847. Martin, Woodford C., initiated Aug. 30, 1847; withdrew by card, April 14, 1851.
1853. Maddox, Harvey P., initiated Nov. 21, 1853; withdrew by card, Oct. 8, 1855.
1855. Martin, R. A. C., admitted by card, Aug. 13, 1855; murdered by James Boys, May 29, 1872.
1869. Minter, Geo. W., initiated Aug. 16, 1869; withdrew by card, Dec. 31, 1870.
1871. Moore, Jas. W., initiated Oct. 17, 1871; N. P. D., March 4, 1879.
1876. Mitchell, Samuel O., admitted by card, April 4, 1876; withdrew by card, Nov. 1884; reinstated by card, July 28, 1885; N. P. D. July 10, 1885; reinstated by card, July 1, 1888; withdrew by card, Jan. 15, 1889.
1892. Matthews, Chas., initiated Oct. 25, 1892; living.
1894. Morgan, Elijah, admitted by card, March 27, 1894; living.
1897. Marcum, C. H., initiated Jan. 19, 1897; living.
1844. McDonald, Jno. A., initiated May 20, 1844; withdrew by card, Aug. 27, 1849.
1844. McDavitt, George, initiated June 3, 1844; died July 24, 1855.

1846. McHenry, Martin D., Jr., initiated April 13, 1846; withdrew by card, July 1, 1848.
1848. McFadden, Wm., admitted by card, May 8, 1848; withdrew by card, June 5, 1848.
1849. McKay, A. H., initiated Sept. 17, 1849; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1870. McDonald, John, initiated June 21, 1870; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1871. McKenney, Jesse F., initiated Aug. 22, 1871; N. P. D., July 10, 1888.
1875. McDonald, Duncan, initiated Feb. 16, 1875; died at Shelbyville, Ky., Nov. 12, 1892.

N

1844. Neel, Fielding, initiated Feb. 26, 1844; withdrew by card, July 21, 1851; reinstated by card, Aug. 13, 1855; withdrew by card, Sept. 1, 1856.
1847. Neel, Wm. F., initiated May 10, 1847; withdrew by card, July 18, 1847.
1849. Neel, Richard, initiated June 4, 1849; withdrew by card, June 23, 1851; reinstated by card, Aug. 13, 1855; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1850. Nicols, Smith, admitted by card, Jan. 14, 1850; withdrew by card, Oct. 7, 1850.
1869. Northcutt, H. C., Rev., initiated March 1, 1869; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.

O

1880. Osborn, J. M., initiated Feb. 24, 1880; N. P. D.,
July 29, 1884.

P

1847. Porter, John S., initiated Dec. 20, 1847; N. P. D.,
April 24, 1854.
1849. Pomeroy, G. A. K., initiated May 21, 1849; N.
P. D., Dec, 30, 1856.
1856. Palmer, T. R., Rev., initiated March 17, 1856;
withdrew by card, Sept. 4, 1865.
1868. Parrent, Wm. P., initiated May 4, 1868; died
Jan., 1870.
1868. Putnam, A. V., initiated May 11, 1868; N. P. D.,
Dec. 15, 1874.
1880. Pemberton, Jno. B., initiated Feb. 24, 1880; N.
P. D., July 27, 1886; reinstated, Dec. 13,
1892; living.
1893. Poulter, Chas. D., initiated May 23, 1893; living.

R

1843. Rogers, W. G., initiated Nov. 16, 1843; with-
drew by card, Oct. 1, 1849.
1845. Reynolds, Jas. M., initiated April 14, 1845; with-
drew by card, Dec. 29, 1845.
1845. Redding, Joseph, admitted by card, Dec. 29,
1845; withdrew by card, June 30, 1847.

1846. Ross, Samuel C., initiated Jan. 12, 1846; withdrew by card, July 21, 1851.
1846. Rowden, Geo. W., initiated Feb. 23, 1846; died at Shelbyville, Ky., Aug. 1, 1870.
1846. Redding, Robt. H., initiated Feb. 23, 1846; died March 30, 1853.
1846. Robinson, Samuel L., initiated Aug. 17, 1846; withdrew by card, Oct. 1, 1847.
1846. Redmon, Wm. G., admitted by card, Dec. 14, 1846; withdrew by card, June 18, 1847; reinstated, Nov. 27, 1848; withdrew by card, Jan. 1, 1850.
1847. Ranck, Solomon, initiated July 5, 1847; died Aug. 16, 1862.
1847. Reardon, John, admitted by card Aug. 9, 1847; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1847. Robb, Jerome B., initiated Aug. 23, 1847; withdrew by card, March 4, 1850.
1848. Robinson, Geo. N., admitted by card, Oct. 30, 1848; withdrew by card, Dec. 1, 1852.
1849. Richardson, Jno. M., initiated Feb. 19, 1849; N. P. D., April 24, 1854.
1849. Ratcliffe, Samuel A., initiated Sept. 17, 1849; withdrew by card, April 2, 1860.
1854. Robinson, Zachariah H., initiated Nov. 13, 1854; withdrew by card, June 30, 1856.
1869. Randolph, Anson D. F., initiated Jan. 11, 1869; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.

1869. Rothchild, Abraham, initiated Aug. 30, 1869; living.
1871. Rapp, Adolph, initiated May 23, 1871; withdrew by card, Feb. 20, 1872.
1871. Reiser, Jno. C., initiated Aug. 15, 1871; N. P. D., July 31, 1883.
1873. Raines, Jno. M., initiated May 20, 1873; N. P. D., Feb. 4, 1890.
1876. Reed, Dan K., admitted by card, Mar. 14, 1876; N. P. D., March 4, 1879.
1895. Rothchild, Leon, initiated March 19, 1895; living.
1895. Ritchie, W. H., admitted by card, Dec. 31, 1895; living.

S

1846. Sublett, Wm., initiated Jan. 26, 1846; withdrew by card, Aug. 13, 1849.
1846. Smith, Samuel P., initiated March 30, 1846; withdrew by card, June 30, 1847.
1847. Smith, J. W. W., initiated May 31, 1847; expelled, Oct. 1, 1849.
1848. Spillman, Jas. E., admitted by card, June 19, 1848; withdrew by card, Oct. 2, 1848.
1849. Scott, Morton, admitted by card, Feb. 12, 1849; withdrew by card, March 4, 1850.
1849. Stacey, J. M., initiated Aug. 13, 1849; withdrew by card, Jan. 19, 1852.

1849. Shindler, G. C., initiated Oct. 1, 1849; withdrew by card Oct 17, 1853
1851. Shinnick, Wm., initiated July 14, 1851; N. P. D., Dec. 17, 1860.
1852. Stewart, Wm., initiated May 10, 1852; N. P. D., April 24, 1854.
1855. Shafar, L. W., admitted by card, Aug. 20, 1855; N. P. D., Sept. 13, 1858.
1856. Shindler, Jno. B., initiated Feb. 18, 1856; N. P. D., March 19, 1860.
1857. Solomon, Julius, initiated June 29, 1857; withdrew by card, June 17, 1865.
1868. Schnell, Jno. Max, initiated May 25, 1868; N. P. D., June 12, 1877.
1869. Stivers, Gideon J., initiated Aug. 30, 1869; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1872. Sanders, Culvin, initiated June 18, 1872; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1876. Shipman, Jos., initiated Feb. 8, 1876; N. P. D., July 29, 1884; reinstated, Dec. 22, 1892; N. P. D., April 2, 1895.
1880. Scott, Adam, initiated Aug. 24, 1880; N. P. D., July 29, 1884.
1883. Smith, J. H., admitted by card, May 29, 1883; N. P. D., Sept. 15, 1885.
1893. Sparks, J. H., initiated Nov. 28, 1893; living.

T

1843. Todd, Isaac Shelby, initiated Nov. 16, 1843; N. P. D., March 29, 1847.
1844. Thompson, Robt., initiated May 2, 1844, withdrew by card, March 5, 1849.
1844. Todd, Thos. I., admitted by card, Sept. 29, 1844; N. P. D., Dec. 28, 1846.
1844. Torbitt, James, initiated Dec. 9, 1844; withdrew by card, Sept. 3, 1849.
1848. Taylor, Geo. Y., initiated July 31, 1848; withdrew by card, Sept. 16, 1850.
1869. Taylor, W. Z., initiated Aug. 2, 1869; living.
1875. Taylor, Jesse C., initiated June 22, 1875; N. P. D., April 2, 1895.
1876. Thompson, Seaton E., initiated Aug. 15, 1876; withdrew by card, Aug. 17, 1886.
1883. Thompson, D. J., initiated Nov. 13, 1883; died at Shelbyville, Ky., Nov. 23, 1891.

U

1868. Ungerman, Henry, initiated May 11, 1868; withdrew by card, Aug. 23, 1869.

V

1847. Van Vleet, J., initiated April 12, 1847; withdrew by card, June 18, 1847.
1848. Vandyke, P. W., admitted by card, July 24, 1848; N. P. D., April 24, 1854.

1849. Venable, Jno. W., admitted by card, Sept. 24, 1849; withdrew by card, Sept 18, 1854.
1851. Vandyke, Wm. S., initiated March 10, 1851; N. P. D., April 24, 1854.

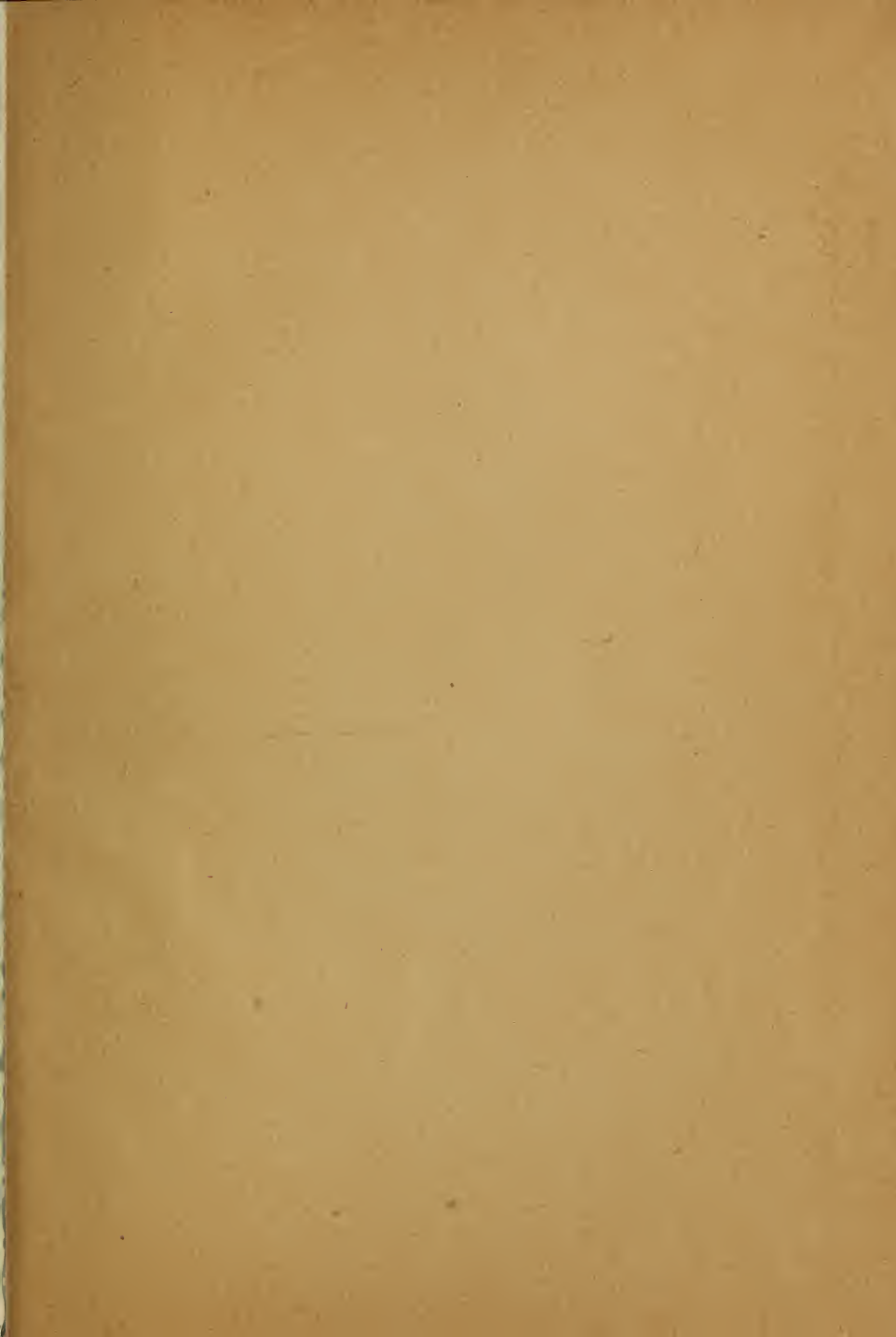
W

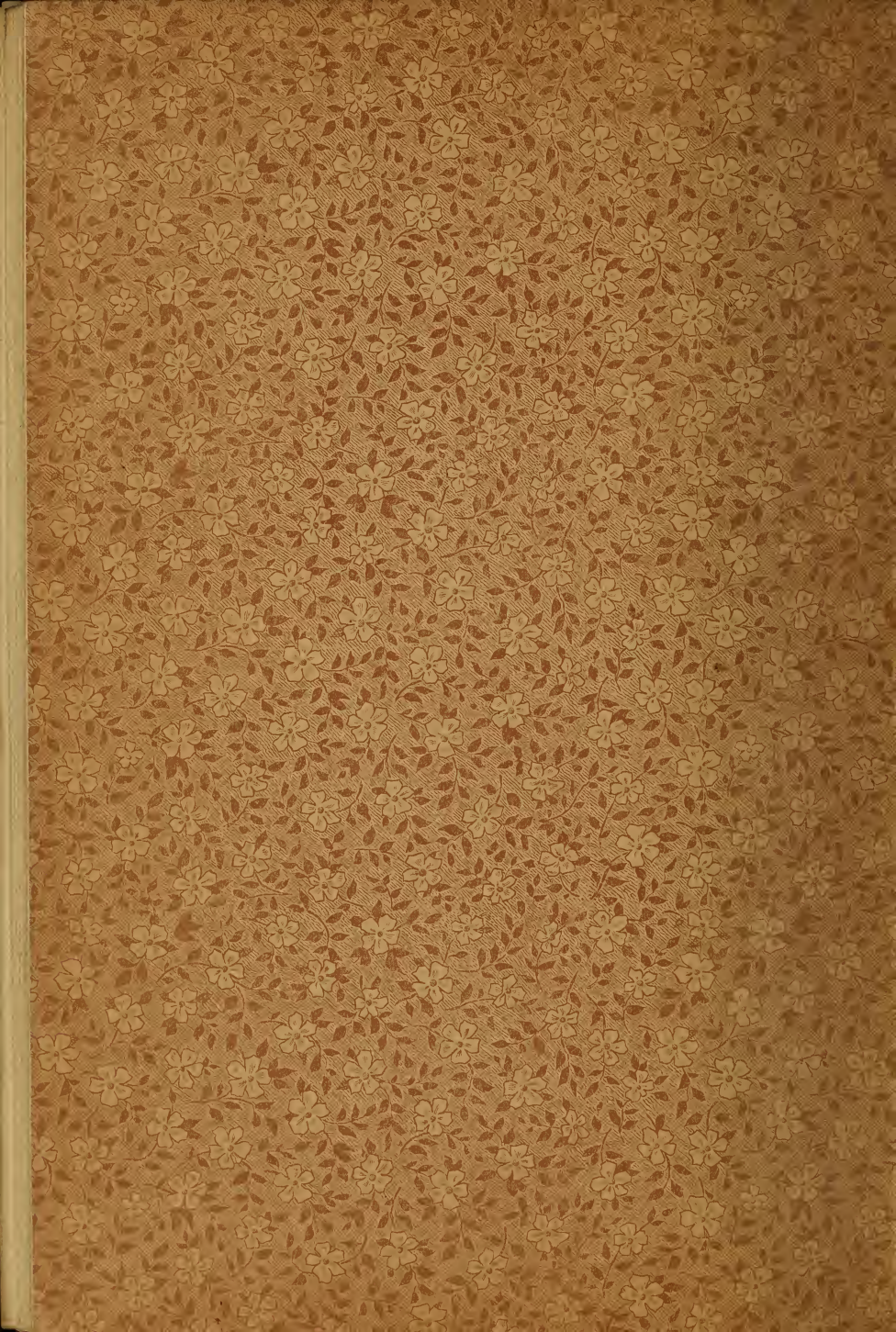
1843. Womack, S. V., initiated Nov. 16, 1843; N. P. D., Feb. 5, 1848.
1844. White, Daniel, initiated April 29, 1844; withdrew by card, July 21, 1848; reinstated by card, Dec. 16, 1850; withdrew by card, July 19, 1858.
1844. Wright, Jno. M., initiated July 15, 1844; withdrew by card, Dec. 1, 1845.
1845. White, John, initiated Oct. 6, 1845; withdrew by card, Feb. 28, 1848.
1845. Williams, Wm. L., initiated Dec. 29, 1845; withdrew by card, Dec. 24, 1849.
1846. Waters, Watson W., initiated Feb. 9, 1846; N. P. D., June 30, 1848; reinstated by card, Aug. 21, 1848; N. P. D., July 21, 1856.
1848. Webb, Roland E., initiated May 29, 1848; withdrew by card, Aug. 13, 1849.
1850. Wayne, David, initiated Jan. 21, 1850; living.
1850. Wehe, Adam, initiated March 25, 1850; withdrew by card, Jan. 14, 1851.
1850. Watts, Chas C., initiated Oct. 14, 1850; N. P. D., Feb. 4, 1890.

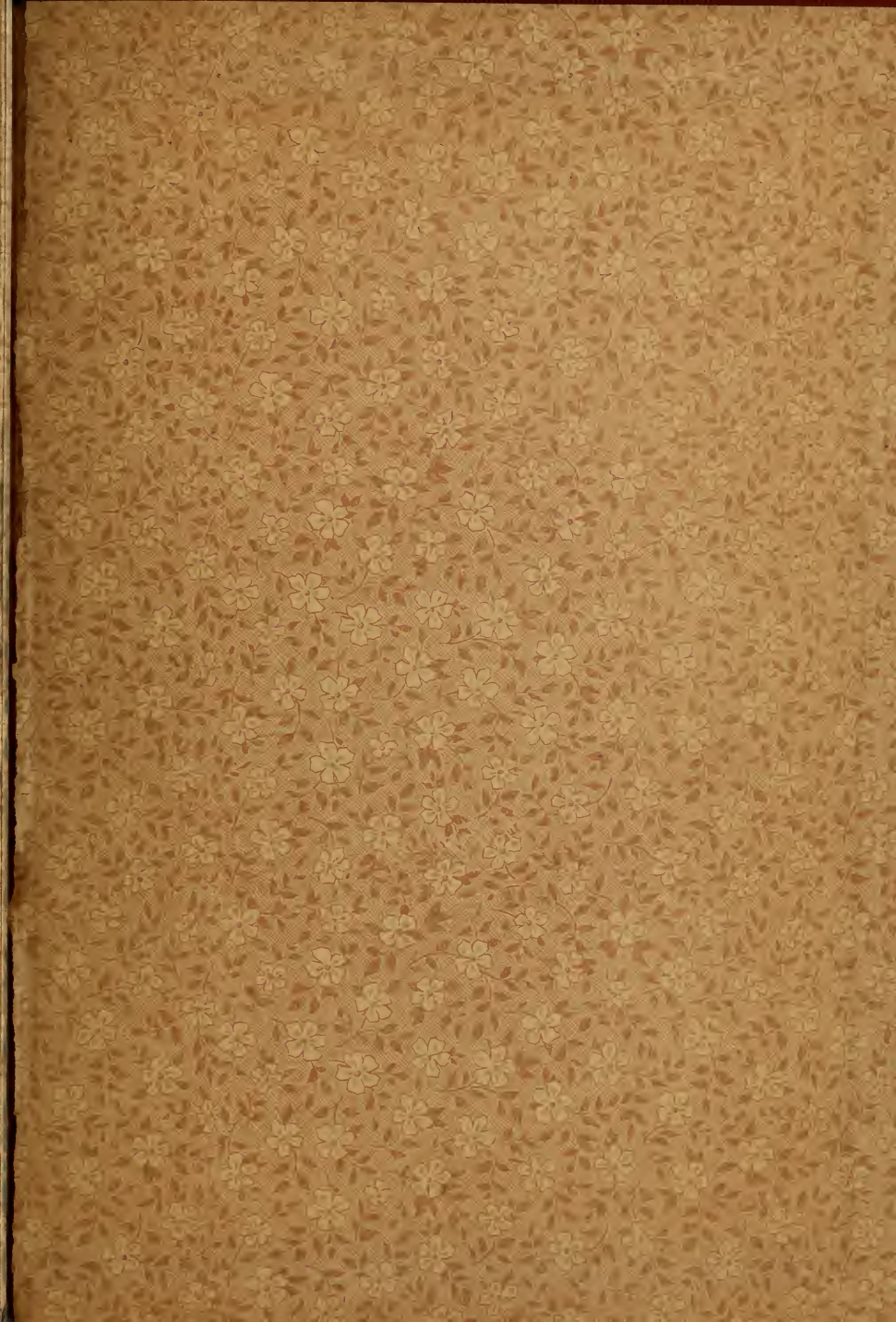
1854. Westerfield, Isaac, initiated Oct. 16, 1854; withdrew by card, March 24, 1856.
1859. Waxler, F. E., initiated June 13, 1859; withdrew by card, Dec. 16, 1861.
1870. Walker, Geo. W., initiated Feb. 22, 1870; N. P. D., Dec. 15, 1874.
1871. Ware, E. M., initiated May 23, 1871; N. P. D., Sept. 10, 1878.
1875. Whalley, Thos. G., initiated June 1, 1875; died at Shelbyville, Ky., Aug. 6, 1880.
1884. Watts, Henri, initiated Dec. 16, 1884; N. P. D., Feb. 4, 1890.
1893. Wayne, Chas. R., initiated June 6, 1893; N. P. D., Aug. 11, 1896.
1893. Weingardner, John, initiated Nov. 28, 1893; N. P. D., Aug. 11, 1896.
1896. Wilhelm, Fred, initiated March 3, 1896; living.

Z

1852. Zaring, Norbin B., initiated March 1, 1852; N. P. D., March 19, 1860.







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